

Lockerbie evidence sparks massive hunt

Terrorist bomb destroyed jet

Crash investigators confirmed that a bomb placed on Pan Am flight PA 103 caused the Lockerbie air disaster in which 270 people died

The confirmation came after 24 hours of brilliant detective work by Ministry of Defence scientists called in from their Christmas holidays

The Department of Transport ordered airlines using British airports to take additional security measures on all bags stored in aircraft holds

By Harvey Elliott, Michael Evans, Ronal Faxx and Tony Dawe

One of the biggest-ever international terrorist hunts was launched last night after crash investigators confirmed that a bomb had caused the Lockerbie air disaster which killed 270 people.

The US Government is expected to offer a \$500,000 (£278,000) reward for information resulting in the capture of those responsible as the Federal Bureau of Investigation joins Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad and Scottish police in the hunt.

The investigation will focus initially on how and where the bomb was placed aboard Pan Am flight PA 103, which originated in Frankfurt and continued from Heathrow airport eight days ago.

Last night the Department of Transport ordered airlines using British airports to take additional security measures on all baggage stored in the hold of aircraft.

Confirmation that a bomb caused Britain's worst air disaster came after 24 hours of brilliant detective work by

Ministry of Defence scientists called in from their Christmas holidays.

Using a sophisticated array of laser and electronic equipment, the experts at the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment at Fort Halstead in Kent, found traces of explosives in two sections of a metal luggage pallet from the plane's forward baggage hold.

There was sufficient evidence to show that a highly sophisticated bomb, made

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from plastic explosives, had been detonated there. The scientists also examined damaged fibre samples taken from the luggage hold through a scanning electron microscope.

They were able to tell that the fibre had been severed in a manner characteristic of explosive damage.

The Prime Minister and President Reagan were told of the findings shortly before they were announced simultaneously in Lockerbie and Whitehall. The State Department declared immediately that a "vigorous" investigation was already under way to determine how the explosives were smuggled aboard.

It made clear that it agreed with the results of the British findings and emphasized that US authorities would con-

time to work closely with British investigators. "We are determined to get to the bottom of this and to find out who did it, using all available US resources, including the FBI," Mrs Phyllis Oakley, the State Department spokeswoman, said.

Additional FBI agents are being sent to Britain to try to find out which explosives and triggering mechanism were used. This could help establish who carried out the sabotage.

Suspicion is expected to focus on Palestinian splinter groups because of their known determination to prevent a political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In Lockerbie, Mr John Boyd, the Chief Constable of Dumfriesshire and Galloway said the investigation had now developed into a criminal inquiry of international dimensions.

He said: "I have always been aware that this probability existed and because of this I have ensured from the outset that the various elements comprising a criminal investigation, including national and international agencies, have been involved and kept fully informed."

Airlines were facing the prospect last night of massive delays as they prepared to check every piece of baggage for explosives in response to the Department of Transport order.

But their security chiefs urged them not to overreact to

what could be a single isolated case of mass murder.

"Security depends on reacting to the perceived threat," said Mr Rodney Wallis, Director of Security for the International Air Transport Association.

"Despite what has happened there is no discernible additional threat to aviation in general today than there was two weeks ago."

What was needed urgently, he added, was a unified approach to the whole problem throughout the industry so that intelligence could be gathered and preventive measures taken in those areas under specific threat.

"If such measures are imposed across the board on all airlines and on every route, it could bring real problems to airports which are already seriously congested," Mr Wallis said.

Even so in response to the Department of Transport's order, all airlines using British airports are almost certain to copy security measures already in force with El Al in which bags are subjected to random searches and x-rays, and passengers not only have to identify their own bags but answer detailed questions about the contents.

Although such a system could cause chaos at Heathrow airport chiefs fear that if they do not follow official advice, they could face possible legal action if another bomb, smuggled aboard one

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The police investigation

Last hours of flight PA103

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

The three-nation police investigation into the bombing of PA 103 will concentrate on the facilities of Frankfurt and Heathrow airports, viewed as among the safest in the world.

Police will also pore over the sheets of airline documents that make up the passenger list and cargo manifest. Somewhere among the names and addresses lies a hidden story, which may prove to be the history of a terrorist prepared to undertake a suicide mission or a duped sent to his or her death.

Within hours of the crash Scotland Yard terrorist experts were considering it could have been caused by a terrorist copying the example of Nezar Hindawi who tried to blow up an El Al flight in 1986 using the luggage of his

unsuspecting girlfriend.

The BKA federal police in West Germany and the Yard's anti-terrorist branch will concentrate their initial efforts on checking security for the linking flight from Frankfurt which connected with the transatlantic flight at Heathrow. All airport staff involved with the flights and the passengers who transferred will be questioned.

By the time the British and German police are finished they should have a full picture of the key last hours of the crash aircraft. It may take much longer to build up biographies of all the passengers and crew.

Police will recheck records to ensure no passengers got off at Heathrow and left their luggage to be taken on.

Two Pan Am passengers have reported incidents suggesting there could be a breakdown of the system for checking bags against their owners.

Gradually a list of possible suspects will emerge. They may be people whose home addresses do not tally or even exist.

If the bomber was an innocent victim, relatives or friends may tell of passengers who did a favour for a friend, perhaps a recently acquired one, and agreed to pack an extra Christmas present or parcel on their behalf for delivery in the United States.

In 1986 Hindawi provided the bag, did the packing and set the timer and detonator hidden inside a calculator on the way to the airport.

Moscow eases travel curbs

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

The Soviet Union yesterday took another step to brush up its human rights image by revealing plans to allow its citizens to travel more freely. The timing is bound to increase the dilemma of the British Government, which will have to decide soon whether to drop its objections to an international human rights conference which Moscow wants to hold in 1991.

The imminence of the British decision, which may be taken as soon as next week, has touched off fierce lobbying

by MPs and pressure groups. A full-page advertisement in The Times yesterday was signed by 170 MPs who argued that British support for such a conference would be

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"premature". Downing Street and the Foreign Office expect a big mailbag from other opponents of the Soviet proposal.

Moscow is making intense efforts to convince Western

Governments of its good intentions. There has been a stream of proposals for changes in the law which would bring the Soviet Union more into line with its commitments under the 1975 Helsinki Accords. The latest, a plan to lift many of the restrictions on foreign travel, emerged yesterday from a meeting of consular officials in Moscow. If carried into law it would probably help to soften the British attitude.

Britain, together with the

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Prince of Wales' first winner fails a dope test

By Christopher Goulding

Devils Elbow, the Prince of Wales's first winner as a racehorse owner and breeder, has failed a dope test after carrying his scarlet and royal blue colours to victory in a hurdle race at Worcester on December 5.

The four-year-old gelding, which carries the name of a public house in Princeton, Dartmoor, owned by the Duchy of Cornwall, was found to have traces of caffeine, theobromine and theophylline, all prohibited substances, after a routine post-race dope test.

Nick Gaselee, who trains Devils Elbow at Lambourn, said yesterday: "The test showed that caffeine was present and some feed stuffs have been taken away for analysis." It is

inevitable that the Prince will lose the race and Gaselee will incur a minimum fine of £1,000. Rule 53 of the Rules of Racing states: "If the result of analysis of any sample of its tissue, body fluid or excreta is positive the stewards of the Jockey Club shall impose a fine upon the trainer of the horse in question as may at their discretion withdraw his licence."

David Pipe, spokesman for the Jockey Club, said: "The Jockey Club security department is continuing its investigations, but at the moment the source of the prohibited substances is not known. It is too early to speculate but these substances often appear in contaminated feed."

The routine test on Devils Elbow was sent by the Jockey Club to the

Horseshoe Forensic Laboratory in Newmarket where around 6,500 samples are sent each year.

In an average year, only between 10 and 20 of those samples are tested positive. The majority of these are accounted for by legitimate medication applied too close to a race and to a decreasing extent these days, by contaminated foodstuffs.

The introduction of threshold levels, above which a substance is classed as a positive test, has filtered out some positives, but the occurrence of theobromine, a regular offender in that connection, has declined, suggesting food-stuffs manufacturers are ironing out some of the problems.

The samples are taken largely randomly from each day's runners.

'Please mummy, cut another finger'



Four-year-old Gayaney Petrosyan, above, who survived eight days under Leninakan's rubble thanks to the bravery of her mother, Susanna, below, who gave her child her blood.

Quake ordeal of mother and child

Yerevan (AP) - The earthquake that killed 55,000 and brought tragedy to countless Armenians continues to produce stories of bravery, like that of Susanna Petrosyan, a 26-year-old mother, who was buried alive for eight days under tons of smashed concrete with her four-year-old daughter Gayaney. Their only food, a jar of jam, was gone.

"Mommy, I'm so thirsty. I want a drink," cried Gayaney. Susanna Petrosyan, 26, was trapped flat on her back. A prefabricated concrete panel 18 inches above her head and a crumpled water pipe above her shoulders kept her from standing. She wore only a slip, and it was bitterly cold.

Beside her in the darkness lay the lifeless body of her sister-in-law, Karine. She had been crushed by falling walls, and died pinned beneath rubble one day after the earthquake leveled much of Leninakan and other towns in northwestern Armenia.

"I thought my child was going to die of thirst," Susanna said later from her hospital bed. "I had no water, no fruit juice, no liquids. It was then I remembered that I had my own blood."

Although she was trapped in darkness, she could slide on her back from side to side. Her groping fingers, numb from the cold, found a shattered glass. She sliced open her left index finger with a shard and gave it to her little girl to suck.

The drops of blood weren't enough. "Please, Mummy, some more. Cut another finger," Susanna remembers her daughter saying.

The woman made more cuts in her flesh, feeling nothing because of the bitter cold that descended after the quake. She put her hand to her child's mouth, squeezing her fingers to make more blood come. "I knew I was going to die," Susanna said. "But I wanted my daughter to live."

Around 11:30 a.m. on the day of the quake, Susanna and Gayaney had been driven by Susanna's husband Gerkhan, a shoemaker, to the apartment building on Leninakan's Kamo Street where Karine lived.

Susanna, a petite woman with thick black hair and curving eyebrows, wanted to try on a black dress with puffed shoulders that Karine had for sale.

It fitted perfectly. As she took it off, the fifth-floor apartment began to tremble, then shake violently. Dressed only in a slip and her underwear, Susanna grabbed

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US tax retaliation fuels fears of cereals trade war

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

British ministers fear that the threat by the US to impose 100 per cent taxes on a selection of European food products could escalate into a far more damaging trade war on cereals. Britain is likely to have to play a crucial bridging role in preventing a huge dispute between the two trading blocs.

Mr John MacGregor, the Minister of Agriculture, warned his Common Market counterparts earlier this year that if they insisted in going ahead with plans to ban the import of American beef treated with growth hormones they could provoke a totally unnecessary and unfortunate trade war. In effect he told them that they were pitching their fight on the wrong issue at the wrong time.

The American tax, due to start on January 1, is designed as retaliation for the European Community ban which the Americans believe is purely a trade barrier designed to protect European markets for home producers.

Mr MacGregor, who has

close contacts with his American opposite number Mr Richard Lyng and his successor-to-be Mr Clayton Yeutter, currently the US trade representative, has assured the Americans that the European move is in fact a perfectly genuine one, reflecting the wish of the member states not to permit hormone-growth meat to be sold in their shops for health reasons. But Britain voted against the ban on the grounds that scientific evidence assessed by a group led by Professor Ertle Lamming, of Nottingham University, did not suggest there was any dan-

ger to human or animal health.

By threatening to double the price of a number of European food products on the shelves of American supermarkets the US authorities have angered producers and governments in West Germany, The Netherlands, Denmark and Italy, who will suffer considerable trade losses. The fear now is that further tit-for-tat measures on both sides will lead to a breakdown of world trade talks under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, expected to resume in April.

Britain will not suffer significant loss of trade at this stage. The American taxes have been framed in such a way that, of the list of products facing extra duty, between only 2 and 3 per cent represents British sales to America, with pet food the main item.

Mr MacGregor said yesterday: "It's not going to affect the UK very much but it's an

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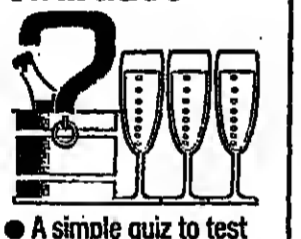
Advertisement for BOODLE & DUNTHORNE featuring various diamond jewelry items with prices and contact information.

INSIDE

First Light

All this week The Times is serializing Peter Ackroyd's latest novel. The fourth extract appears today on page 16.

Charades



A simple quiz to test your knowledge of the arts: page 18.

SATURDAY

Party time

Who are the world's best party givers? On New Year's Eve, in colour, The Times draws up a star-studded guest list.

WIN £80,000

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

There was one winner of yesterday's Portfolio Accumulator (see page 3). The Accumulator fund stands at £80,000 - or there is the £4,000 daily prize to be won. Prices: page 25.

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Table listing various news sections and their page numbers, including Home News, Overseas, Business, Sport, etc.

He lead and the world follow



NEWS ROUNDUP

Best drink-drive statistics in world

Britain's drink-driving figures are probably the best in the world. Mr Peter Bottomley, Minister for Roads and Traffic, said yesterday.

Baby murder charge

A teenage couple accused of murdering their son aged seven months were remanded at Highbury Magistrates' Court yesterday.

Setback for refugee

Vinaj Mendis, aged 32, a Tamil supporter who has spent two years in sanctuary in a Manchester church, yesterday failed to win a further breathing space in his fight against deportation to Sri Lanka.

Inquiry at cemetery

More than 100 damaged or leaning headstones were topped over by staff at a cemetery in Barrow, Cumbria. The safety move came after a child was crushed by an unsafe headstone at another cemetery in the county.

Three sent for trial

Liverpool magistrates yesterday sent three people for trial in connection with the £500,000 Preston bank robbery. Len Newsham, of Fazakerley, and Kevin Leary, of Colehill Road, both Liverpool, are accused of robbing Mr Roger Ball, a bank manager, of cash and travellers' cheques worth £527,912 on September 4 this year.

Explosions charge

A hospital worker aged 35 was charged by Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch last night with unlawful and malicious conspiracy to cause explosions and withholding information. Mr Joseph Wadley, of Bury Road, Wood Green, north London, will appear at Lambeth Magistrates' Court today.

Ford and electricians plan training deal

By Roland Radd, Employment Affairs Reporter

The electricians' union and the Ford Motor Company hope to sign a revolutionary training agreement early next year which would allow the union to oversee part of the training in two of the company's biggest plants.

— is expected to boost their membership, which has recently been under attack from the Electrical, Plumbing and Industries Union, a breakaway electricians' organization, which formed a group at the body plant.

Yet EETPU instructors could soon be training apprentices on the breakaway union, as well as trainees from other unions, including the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union, which is hostile to the electricians.

Mr David Rodgers, EETPU director of training, was confident yesterday that, in spite of union differences, the agreement would work smoothly in both plants.

He said: "Having worked with Ford extensively in the past, this is another example of how a progressive and independent union can provide a

company with the training it needs at a time when the skills shortage is reaching crisis proportions."

Mr Stephen Craske, a senior EETPU instructor, said he hoped the union would provide "a key technical training service" at a more competitive rate than other agencies.

The union, which already has had two meetings with Ford, is planning a final meeting with the company next month.

Meanwhile, Jaguar is planning to target the fast-growing markets in the Far East and is looking to China to counter the fall in sales in the United States.

After a 6 per cent fall in US sales, Jaguar aims to capitalize on the wealth of the Pacific rim. A senior Jaguar sales team, which recently returned from Tokyo, Taiwan and

Guildford bombers decision 'in weeks'

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

A decision on whether to send the case of the four people convicted for the Guildford bombings back to the Court of Appeal is expected from Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, within weeks.

After reviewing a stream of evidence submitted in the past few months, as well as a police report into the case, Mr Hurd's decision, which was expected last autumn, could now be made in the first weeks of the new year, according to a Whitehall source.

Three young Belfast men — Patrick Hill, Gerald Armstrong and Patrick Conlon — and Carole Richardson, then aged 17, were convicted in 1975 of attacks a year earlier on the Horse and Groom and Seven Stars public houses in which five people died. Two of the men were also convicted of bombing the King's Arms public house in Woolwich, south-east London, in which two died.

They were convicted on confessions. There was no identification evidence and no forensic scientific links but they had signed statements made to the police. During their trial they all withdrew their confessions with claims that they had been mistreated by police.

All were given long or life sentences. Hill's sentence is thought to be the longest ever given. He received life, with the recommendation that he only be released because of great age or infirmity.

After the convictions a campaign began to challenge the court decision. Campaigners have accused the crown of omitting evidence linking the bombings to the activities of the IRA gang caught at Balcombe Street, in London, who have always claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Last year Mr Hurd ordered a fresh inquiry by Avon and Somerset police into new evidence on the case. This autumn more evidence emerged when it was disclosed that Richardson had been given a narcotic drug by a police surgeon to calm her after her arrest.

The campaign has drawn the support of people such as Dr Runcie, Cardinal Hume, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead and Mr Mervyn Rees.

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A long day's journey into night for junior hospital doctor

ADRIAN BROOKS

Anger on wards as Mellor talks of fisherman's stories

By Richard Ford and Emma Wilkins

Junior hospital doctors were embroiled in a dispute with the Minister of State for Health last night after he said some of their protests over long shifts were "fisherman's stories".

Mr David Mellor said yesterday: "Undoubtedly the junior doctors have a case for improvement which we accept. But there is no doubt there are some fisherman's stories about."

He criticized some junior hospital doctors for suggesting that people entering hospital for operations would be treated by over-tired doctors.

"It is irresponsible to suggest that people cannot go into hospital to have operations without being worried that they are going to be dealt with by over-tired and therefore incapable doctors."

His comments angered junior hospital doctors, who insisted that exhaustion was a danger to staff and patients by the end of a long shift.

Dr Chris Johnstone, aged 26, whose case was highlighted in protests earlier this week, said that he had fallen asleep during an operation to remove a gall bladder. "I felt myself swaying and falling forward

towards the patient. The next thing I remember was putting my hand on to the patient to keep myself upright. That was when I woke up," he said.

Dr Johnstone challenged Mr Mellor to join him on a normal weekend shift of 100 hours. "My story is not a fisherman's tale — it happens all the time," he said. "If Mr Mellor does not believe me, I challenge him to accompany me, or any other junior doctor on one of our shifts."

Dr Johnstone, a senior house officer at the Middlesex Hospital, central London, predicted that Mr Mellor would not complete the shift. "He would need at least a week to recover from having only two or three hours' sleep a night for three nights, but we are expected to carry on."

"We are not superhuman, that is why these kind of hours are unacceptable. You cannot expect a doctor to perform adequately when he has had no sleep."

Dr Barbara Wesby, a senior house officer at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, west London, said: "David Mellor's comments are unbelievable. Doctors operate when

they are over-tired every single day — it's routine."

Dr Wesby, who specializes in obstetrics and gynaecology, said she knew a doctor who had suffered severe psychological problems through making a fatal mistake.

"He killed a baby because he was exhausted and gave the wrong treatment."

Dr Paula Hickman, aged 24, fell asleep in the operating theatre at Hillingdon Hospital, Uxbridge, west London, after two-thirds of her weekend shift, which lasted from Friday morning to Monday afternoon. She collapsed on a Sunday night during an investigatory operation into abdominal disorders.

"The last thing I remember was peering over at the patient," she said. "And then I think I must have collapsed. It was only when I hit the floor that I woke up."

Senior staff advised her to leave the theatre, but she was not allowed to go home until Monday afternoon.

Mr Frank Cook, Labour MP for Stockton North, also criticized Mr Mellor. "He cannot deny the truth of the junior doctors' claims."



Dr Barbara Wesby monitoring a problem labour yesterday during her two-day shift at St Mary's Hospital.

THE LOCKERBIE JET DISASTER

Ministry's team of forensic scientists found evidence of Pan Am bomb after only 24 hours

Focus of suspicion likely to centre on Arab extremists

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

It took a small team of explosives experts from the Ministry of Defence's Royal Armaments Research and Development Establishment (RADE) at Fort Halstead, Kent, just over 24 hours to prove that the Pan Am aircraft that crashed at Lockerbie was destroyed by a bomb.

Fort Halstead, RADE's headquarters, has two specialist roles. On the defence side, scientists, engineers and technicians study guns, ammunition and conventional armaments.

There is also a forensic science

investigation unit that assists the Metropolitan Police in all criminal cases involving explosives. It cooperates with the Home Office's Forensic Science Service in providing help for other police forces in England and Wales.

Although Fort Halstead was closed over Christmas, a small team of scientists and technicians arrived at the headquarters on Tuesday morning to begin work on pieces of wreckage that had been sent from Lockerbie.

The scientists traced explosive contamination in two sections of the plane's metal luggage pallet. There was a sufficient residue of

material to prove that plastic explosives had detonated in the luggage hold.

The team also examined through a scanning electron microscope damaged fibre samples taken from the luggage hold. The fibre had been severed in a manner characteristic of an explosion.

The scientists will continue their forensic science and metallurgical investigation over the next few days to provide more evidence of the explosive device used by the terrorists. Bodies recovered from the site will be examined.

The discovery that high-performance plastic explosives were used

to bring down the Pan Am jet underlines the serious threat posed by such devices.

American counter-terrorist experts warned officials soon after the crash that a small amount of plastic explosive, such as the Czech-made Semtex material, would be sufficient to blow a hole through the fuselage of a plane.

Fort Halstead has been used by crash investigators throughout the world. Its scientists have been called in after airline disasters in Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, the Mediterranean and the Caribbean. In each case, the MoD investigators helped to prove that explosives were involved.



Mr Michael Charles of the Department of Transport, confirming bomb evidence.

Lawyers hope to evade \$75,000 damages limit

By Charles Bremner and Tony Dawe

Lawyers acting for the relatives of victims of the Lockerbie crash hope to file claims in the United States for millions of dollars in spite of the announcement that a bomb caused the disaster.

They will change their target from Boeing, the aircraft's manufacturer, to Pan Am, which operated the flight.

Last night the lawyers were investigating ways of getting around the international convention which limits damages to \$75,000 (£41,000) a victim.

To do so they need to prove recklessness or willful negligence on the part of those operating the flight. The most obvious targets are the airline and the agents responsible for checking baggage and cargo.

"The lawyers' attention will focus on how the bomb got on board the flight, but it will be a heavy burden to prove responsibility against any particular organization", a member of a



Mr Michael Charles of the Department of Transport, confirming bomb evidence.

leading London firm of aviation lawyers said.

In terms of the Warsaw Convention of 1919 and the Montreal Agreement of 1966, Pan Am's liability is limited to \$75,000 for each passenger.

The cause of the disaster is crucial because the \$75,000 limit may be disregarded if it can be proved that willful misconduct by the airline or its employees contributed.

Some lawyers said it would have been easier to demonstrate willful misconduct if the problem was structural. "If it's a bomb, I think the survivors will unfortunately be limited to \$75,000", Mr George Tompkins, a New York lawyer at Condon & Forsyth, said.

Mr Lee Kreindler, an aviation lawyer representing four families, said warnings about a threat to the airline "gives rise to a higher duty on the part of Pan Am to make sure that the flight was safe".

among other conditions, before it will contemplate a renewal of links.

Although Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council expressed sympathy to families of the crash victims on Tuesday, it is still seen as a probable culprit.

Abu Nidal, the nom de guerre of Sabri a-Bana and his followers, has long been the most feared of radical Palestinian splinter groups. Much of the Middle East protection focuses to western ambassadors' offices mainly on the threat from his gunmen, who have proved more ruthless and dedicated than any other group.

Abu Nidal was responsible for machine-gun and grenade attacks on Rome and Vienna airports three years ago, for several recent assassinations, and for the hijacking of a Pan Am airliner in Karachi two years ago.

Other PLO splinter groups which might be responsible include the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), led by Ahmed Jibril, and the May 15 Organization. Both have used plastic explosives which can be smuggled undetected into aircraft.

All three groups are determined to halt the drift of the Palestine Liberation Organization towards a more moderate stance. They and other Palestinian hardliners opposed the declaration made by the Palestine Liberation Council (the PLO's parliament in exile) in Algiers last month to renounce terrorism and implicitly to accept Israel's right to exist.

The British Government established that Hindawi was under the control of a senior Syrian intelligence officer, which also had links with the Abu Nidal terrorist organization.

Britain broke relations with Syria over the incident and resisted overtures by President Assad early this year. London has always insisted that Abu Nidal should be made to leave its Syrian base,

hope relatives and friends will give money to the trust, being set up through INCARE, the international charitable relief organization.

The first British victim of the crash was formally identified and released to relatives at Lockerbie yesterday. He was Sean Connors, aged 16, of Newfield Drive, Banbury, Oxfordshire.

Michael Joseph Doyle, aged 30, of Arcadia Drive, Voorhees, New Jersey; Noelle Lynette Berti, aged 41, from Paris; and Robert Gerald Fortme, aged 40, of Harris Place, New Milford, New Jersey, were also identified yesterday.

Four face Silence alerted air controller crash theft charges

Four men appeared in a Scottish court yesterday charged with theft after the Boeing Pan Am jet disaster at Lockerbie.

They appeared on separate petitions in private before Sheriff Kenneth Barr at Dumfries Sheriff Court.

At first the Procurator Fiscal, Mr Neil Allan, refused to name the man, saying that under Scottish law there was no obligation for him to do so.

Later yesterday he said he had decided to release the names because of the volume of interest in the cases.

The three men who appeared separately on petition charged with theft of aircraft parts from the crashed jumbo were Mr Scott Gunter Thomson, aged 21, of Ashgrove Crescent, Ecclefechan; Mr Terence Lavery, aged 40, of Crabtree Avenue, Dumfries; and Mr Allan James Austin, aged 20, of Newmans Farm, Dumfries, all Dumfries and Galloway.

They were all granted bail to appear again on the same petition at a date to be fixed. No pleas or declarations were made at yesterday's hearing.

A fourth man appearing separately on petition accused of stealing property salvaged from one of Lockerbie was named as Mr James Thomas Carlyle, aged 28, of Wood Avenue, Annan, Dumfries and Galloway. He was remanded in custody and will appear again in court next week.

Silence alerted air controller

By Tony Dawe

It took several seconds for the controller at the air traffic centre at Prestwick to comprehend what he had seen on his radar screen shortly after 7pm last Wednesday.

He was baffled that a routine call he had just made to Pan Am flight PA103 as it crossed into Scottish airspace on its way to New York from London had gone unanswered.

As he watched the latest sweep across his screen, he saw that the transponder registering details of the flight had disappeared. On the next sweep he saw the dot representing the 20-year-old Boeing 747 had been replaced by several dots.

He began to realize that flight PA103, carrying 259 passengers, had broken into pieces. As he raised the alarm, the wreckage began to fall on the quiet market town of Lockerbie, part of the fuselage digging a crater 40 feet deep between the main Manchester to Glasgow road. Two houses

in Sherwood Crescent disappeared on impact, only the lower walls of two others remained and eight more were devastated. Eleven people died.

Parts of the fuselage and an engine landed to the east in Rosebank Crescent, spilling bodies over the outskirts of the town as it crashed. Three miles to the east the nose of the aircraft came to rest on a grassy knoll.

From the outset it was clear that only an explosion or structural failure could have caused the disaster.

The government Accident Investigation branch and Boeing, the aircraft's manufacturer, had hoped that the way in which the nose had been severed would provide immediate clues, but it failed to do so.

Reports that warnings of a terrorist attack on a Pan Am aircraft had been telephoned to two American embassies increased speculation that a

bomb was to blame, but the lack of evidence increased concern about the aircraft's safety.

Hundreds of soldiers and police officers searched a wide area around Lockerbie, not just for bodies but for wreckage which could provide a definitive clue. On Boxing Day that evidence was discovered — a suitcase ripped apart by pieces of metal.

It was sent to experts at the Royal Armaments Research and Development Establishment at Fort Halstead, Kent. On Tuesday more suitcases, pieces of metal and pallets from the cargo hold were sent to Kent.

Yesterday the scientists found conclusive evidence of a bomb blast and relayed their findings to the Department of Transport, which is responsible for the investigation.

The news brought relief to Boeing and leading airlines but created new anger among the victims' relatives.

Priest condemns 'evil men' behind the carnage on Flight 103

By David Cross

A priest who was a close friend of a young Surrey family killed in the Lockerbie air disaster last night attacked the men responsible for bombing the Pan Am Boeing.

Father Peter Edwards, of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, at Thames Ditton, said his initial feelings were of anger. "It's too soon to talk about forgiveness," he said. "This innocent family who were nothing to do with international politics died as a result of the actions of these evil men."

Mr John and Mrs Geraldine Stevenson

and their daughters, Hannah, aged 10, and Rachel, aged eight, were flying to the United States to spend Christmas with relatives when they were killed.

The family, devout Roman Catholics, had played an active part in their community at Esher since moving there four years ago from Manchester.

Father Edwards said a memorial service was planned for the new year. "But it will not be easy to stand up and talk about forgiveness straight away. At the moment we can only feel deep pain at this loss."

The family of Mrs Yvonne Owen, aged 29, and her baby, Bryony, aged 18 months,

criticized the decision not to publish the bomb warning.

A relative said from her home in Pendine, Dyfed, that if the authorities had spoken up, their lives might have been spared.

"What we feel towards the animals who did this is not primitive," she said. "It was a deliberate act. They have no regard for human life."

The father of a girl aged 19 who died in the disaster has forgiven the bombers, however. "It makes us sick and angry," the Rev John Mosey, minister of the Assemblies of God church in Blaxwick, West Midlands,

said yesterday.

"But I forgive these people. There is no question of that. We are committed Christians and because we believe that God is all wise and good, we think God will bring some good out of this."

His daughter, Helga, was returning to her job as an au pair in America after visiting her parents and collecting a music prize from her old school, King Edward's High School for Girls, at Edgbaston, Birmingham. Mr Mosey said he was setting up a trust in his daughter's name to help educate children in the Third World.

Instead of sending flowers, the Moseys



# Sex bias in schools 'depriving girls of computer education'

By David Tytler, Education Editor

Prejudice is preventing girls from being taught how to use the computer, one of today's most important skills and the possible key to their independence in the future, according to university research to be published early next year.

As girls wait to use the few computer screens in the classroom, boys are allowed to jump the queue, "dominating the limited computer resources that are available in schools", Professor Celia Hoyles, of London University, said.

As a result many young women are being deprived of education that could ensure their futures, while boys are given all possible help and encouragement in an industry anxious to recruit new staff, she said.

The latest figures show that of the 300,000 people working in computers, only 20 per cent are estimated as being women, although they represent about half Britain's working population.

In a booklet to be published soon, Professor Hoyles, head of mathematics education at the university's Institute of Education, says that while girls are either kept waiting or offered less demanding computer classes in the belief that the computer is "not appropriate" for them, boys are given first choice of the school computer.

"It is a matter of grave concern that our culture is defining computers as pre-

The new examination designed to broaden sixth formers' education - AS level - is likely to prove an even greater success than the Government predicted, figures published today show.

The largest A level board said that, in 22 key subjects, it had already received more AS entries than the Government had predicted for all eight examination boards together.

The Associated Examining Board said schools and colleges had indicated their intention to enter 6,471 pupils for its AS level examinations next summer.

eminently male machines... following the traditional lines of gender bias in society", she says.

Her research leads to the "disturbing conclusion that girls are learning less than boys about computers and therefore acquiring less understanding as to how computers might be used for their own purposes", she says.

"While girls and boys might show a similar appreciation of the significance computers might have for their personal futures, boys tend to be more positively disposed than girls towards computers and tend to dominate the limited computer resources that are available in school.

"It is also the case that even when girls are able to obtain access to the machines in

school, only a restricted set of activities - which exclude programming for example - are often deemed to be appropriate for them."

As a result, Professor Hoyles says, "few girls take up any employment using computer skills, other than data or word processing."

Professor Hoyles says that girls take second place in schools where there are limited resources. "When there is competition over scarce resources girls tend to 'lose out'... We must look beyond an essentially transitional situation dominated by shortage of hardware and software.

"If it is true that experience with computers in school is crucial, then we must consider what type of experience with computers should be made available and how they should be organized."

However, she believes that the problem is "neither inevitable nor immutable". She concludes: "There is an urgent need for more research in this area, co-ordinated with teacher education and intervention programmes with the computer revolution under way and the pace of change increasing, we have a duty to ensure that all children benefit from this change."

The Bedford Way Papers, *Girls and Computers* (University of London, Tutorial Distribution, 27 Hovell Road, London N5 1XL; £5.50, inc postage).

# Sale delights owners and dogs' home

DENZIL MANEALANCE



A four-year-old Jack Russell bought at Battersea yesterday is cuddled by its new owner, Emma Eaton, aged 10, from New Malden, south-west London.

The Dogs' Home, Battersea, sold a record number of more than 100 strays yesterday in its annual post-Christmas sale (Patrick O'Hanlon writes). Dogs sell for between £25 and £50 depending on the size of the animal. Mr Stephen Danos, the home's spokesman, said: "We tell

people not to buy a dog before Christmas but to come down as a family after Christmas. There were queues when we opened. Before Christmas the numbers coming in were the highest we ever had, and we had to turn away for the first time strays brought in by the public." Since

Christmas Eve, police have handed in 138 dogs. "We like to get the numbers down before the influx of Christmas present dogs that have been dumped", Mr Danos added. During the next few weeks the home's dog visitors will meet owners and pets to make sure they are coping. The home spays

1,000 bitches and enters a similar number of dogs each year. About 23,000 are handed in, of which 10,000 are sold, 7,000 destroyed, and the remainder claimed by their owners. More than 700 dogs share 468 kennels, although an extra 200 kennels are planned for next year.

# Second school on Hea 'concern' list

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

A second north London primary school, within a mile of the troubled Highbury Quadrant school, has been placed on a register of schools causing "serious concern".

The Inner London Education Authority said yesterday that the St John Evangelist Roman Catholic primary school in Islington had been put on the list because of conflicts between parents and the headmistress, Mrs Irene Rowland.

The authority said the school had been on the list at risk schools for "several months" after a parents' meeting which passed a motion of no confidence in the head.

A number of parents, including some of the governors, withdrew their children. Of the 17 full-time staff, 14 had left since Mrs Rowland became head of the 280-pupil school off Islington High Street in April 1986.

At the start of the autumn term the governors began disciplinary proceedings against Mrs Rowland. The action was halted in October when Mrs Rowland and the chairman of governors, Mr George Healy, signed an agreement in which she agreed to improve communication with parents, staff and clergy.

It was also agreed that her management style would be monitored and that she would face a formal review of her work in June 1989. In return Mr Healy agreed to "fully support the head to the discharge of her duties". Mr Healy said yesterday: "I have said I will honour the agreement and I intend to do so."

The school is within a mile of Highbury Quadrant, an LEA primary school where six senior members of staff are being removed after serious criticisms of teaching and discipline.

# Students in new loans opposition

By Sam Kiley, Higher Education Reporter

The National Union of Students may hold a week-long "mass-lobby" of the Houses of Parliament, flooding its corridors with undergraduates protesting at plans to introduce student loans.

The union is also negotiating with police to stage a mass demonstration and march in London on February 25 as part of a campaign of protests next year at government proposals to introduce loans and do away with student rights to welfare benefits.

The last union-organized demonstration outside the Houses of Parliament was broken up last month by mounted police. At least 20 students were injured as well as six police officers.

The NUS press officer said yesterday that the plans were "at the discussion stage".

# Bar given freedom to advertise fees

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Barristers in England and Wales can advertise their hourly rates for the first time, under changes announced by the Bar chairman-elect, Mr Desmond Fennell, QC, yesterday.

The change, partly in response to a request by the Office of Fair Trading for the ban on advertising fees to be removed, takes immediate effect after a Bar Council meeting last week.

It coincides with the coming into force on Sunday of new provisions which will enable other professions - not just solicitors - to instruct the Bar directly, either on behalf of their clients or on their own behalf.

Mr Fennell, who takes over as Bar chairman on January 1, said yesterday that in the light of that change, the Bar Council had thought it right to accede to the request of the Office of Fair Trading and to "make more information

A pledge to stamp out racial discrimination at the Bar and in the judiciary was made by the profession's chairman-elect, Mr Desmond Fennell, QC, yesterday.

Mr Fennell said: "If there is evidence of racial discrimination, we will be ruthless in trying to eliminate it". He said he would oversee personally all applications from barristers for silk and minor judicial posts and all recommendations for judicial appointments about members of the Bar who were from ethnic minorities.

The Bar is conducting a survey of chambers to see if racial prejudice exists in the appointment of pupils and tenants.

available both to the professions and the public."

Mr Fennell said the Bar was now anxious to banish the restriction stopping barristers advertising hourly rates and to "let people know what the Bar has to offer and what they can expect from us".

The change will mean that barristers can choose to advertise their hourly rates on the brochures they are allowed to produce.

The brochures are left in chambers' waiting rooms, or

commercial work between £70 and £100 an hour.

The rates are often lower than those charged by solicitors because barristers' overheads are lower. A City solicitor of 10 years' experience might charge up to £200 an hour for commercial work.

The Bar has already negotiated an hourly charging rate of £100 an hour for a junior barrister with 10 years' experience for advisory work with the Serious Fraud Office.

In its letter in November to the Bar, the Office of Fair Trading said that although the fee was not the only factor a solicitor and his client would take into account in choosing a barrister, it was an important one in many cases. It wanted barristers to be encouraged to give advance information about charges.

Solicitors are already allowed to advertise the fees they charge.

# Cancer drugs saving women

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

New evidence that drug treatment can save or prolong the lives of many thousands of women who undergo breast cancer operations is published by an international team of researchers today.

Studies of almost 29,000 patients around the world whose condition was diagnosed at an early stage, suggest that their prospects of living five years or more after surgery are enhanced by the use of drugs such as tamoxifen, which control or kill remaining cancer cells.

The improvement is "modest but real" the Imperial Cancer Research Fund said in London yesterday. The fund, along with the Cancer Research Campaign and the Medical Research Council, helped to organize and finance an international overview of the benefits of the drugs.

"The new findings provide the final proof that for many women, drugs really can improve the chances of surviving at least five years after breast surgery", the fund said.

The results of the studies are

published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the leading medical journal in the United States.

They "establish beyond reasonable doubt" that tamoxifen and other forms of chemotherapy can reduce deaths within five years of breast surgery.

Worldwide, after such operations more than 100,000 women are considered suitable for prolonged daily use of tamoxifen for several years, or for other cell-killing drugs for several months. About 10,000 of them are in Britain.

The researchers say that without drugs, 30,000 of the world total might die within five years, including about 3,000 in this country. Britain has about 24,000 new cases of breast cancer each year, leading to 15,000 deaths annually.

Professor Michael Baum, the Cancer Research Campaign's director of cancer trials at King's College, London, said yesterday: "The obvious hope is that these differences in five-year survival will persist indefinitely". The mortal-

ity reduction produced by tamoxifen was most evident among women aged 50 or older.

A brisk walk may help to keep heart attacks at bay among middle-aged men with desk jobs, researchers believe.

The theory will be investigated in a project in which volunteers will gradually work themselves up to walking three miles every day, while their health is monitored.

The £75,000 project is being launched on Sunday and will be funded by the British Heart Foundation and the TSB Foundation for England and Wales.

Evidence suggests that physical activity can reduce the risks of heart disease, but doctors do not know how much exercise is necessary to give protection.

The research is to be carried out by Dr Adrienne Hardman and colleagues at Loughborough University of Technology, in collaboration with the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine in Hampstead, north London.

# Holiday sales spree

# Fire warning over 'bargain' furniture

By Ruth Gledhill

Shoppers could be putting lives at risk by selling furniture containing flammable polyurethane foam at discount prices during the January sales, fire officers and trading standards officers said yesterday.

Shoppers were advised to wait until March, when it will become illegal to sell new furniture containing the flammable foam.

The warning came as shoppers took advantage of sales to go on a final spending spree before a further increase in the mortgage rate in the new year.

Trading standards officers warned shoppers to be on the alert for retailers who take advantage of sales in offload the discontinued lines at large discounts.

The London Fire Brigade said: "Undoubtedly, people are trying to get rid of furniture which does not meet the new regulations. People out buying furniture should look for goods which do meet

Young people are said to be facing heartbreak because of credit card debt and many in need of help are having to be turned away because there are too many for counsellors to deal with. Miss Patricia Greene, co-ordinator of Bradford's debt counselling service in West Yorkshire, said: "We've seen people who have started off on a 'creditground' and ended up evicted and in some cases with their children in care. People should stop and think very carefully before committing themselves to credit repayments. We're averaging about 1,000 new cases a year but if I had the staff I would be seeing 50,000."

the new regulations. "Otherwise, they are putting themselves at risk, not just in the short term, but for as long as they keep the furniture."

Mr Keith Martin, assistant divisional officer with the Gloucestershire Fire Brigade, said: "People may think they are getting a bargain but they could end up paying with their lives."

Mr Brian Fuller, the chief fire officer with the West Midlands Fire Brigade, said: "We can only impress on people to leave this stuff strictly alone. If it is inordinately cheap, they should ask themselves why."

One group, Queensway, has

discounted its polyurethane foam furniture by 30 per cent. Mr David Dawkins, the buying director, said: "We have acted quite responsibly. At one stage we had £15 million tied up in the old foam in 250 stores. Most of that has now been sold."

High street stores were still busy yesterday after many reported record takings the day before. However, the Automobile Association said the roads were quieter yesterday than Tuesday.

Liberty's in Regent Street sold 100 scarves to one Japanese woman and, like Selfridges, reported brisk business in the fashion and de-

signer-wear departments. Marks and Spencer said business was "reasonably busy but nothing spectacular". Barclays said turnover on Barclaycard was on target for £700 million in December, less than £50 million on September, the quietest shopping month of the year.

£Cash machines churned out bank notes at unprecedented rates to keep up with Christmas demand, it was disclosed yesterday.

Link, the network of 1,300 machines run by the main building societies, Girobank and the Clydesdale and Co-op banks, reported a record payout last Friday.

The £5.2 million total, which did not include transactions by cardholders at their society or bank branch's own machine, easily topped the £4.9 million record set the previous Saturday.

The average cash withdrawal, normally about £42, was more than £55 - another record.

# Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

Major John Doyle was the sole winner of yesterday's £4,000 portfolio prize. Major Doyle, aged 73, from Brook Farm Road, Cobham, Surrey, will invest most of his winnings. He will spend the rest on a holiday.

# Impact of seal virus receding

The distemper virus that has wiped out thousands of seals around Europe may be about to disappear.

More than 2,700 common seals have died off Britain in the past five months. Deaths are now being reported at fewer than one a day.

Dr John Harwood, of the Sea Mammal Research Unit in Cambridge, said the frequency of contact between seals was lower than it had been in the summer so there was less chance of the deadly virus being passed on.

Seal Morning, filmed in Norfolk four years ago, will be televised next month with the actors and artists involved giving the £33,000 repeat fee to virus research.

# Chemical alert

Five of the staff at East Midlands airport, near Castle Donington, Leicestershire, were taken to hospital for checks after a chemical spillage in the cargo area yesterday, when a bottle containing hexylamine, a flammable liquid, leaked.

# Elvis to Russia

A musical on the life of Elvis Presley, *Forever Elvis*, goes to the Soviet Union in February at the invitation of the Soviet Cultural Exchanges Committee, which has Mrs Raisa Gorbachov, wife of the Soviet president, as a member.

# Murder charge

John William Holt, aged 62, of Medway, Reigate, Nottinghamshire, was remanded in custody until January 26 at Workson Magistrates' Court yesterday, charged with the murder on December 26 of Jessie Guest, aged 59, the woman with whom he lived.

# Warrior show

An agreement has been signed to exhibit eight Chinese terracotta warriors at Bournemouth Exhibition Centre next May. The exhibition will recreate part of the ancient tomb where the life-size pottery figures were discovered in Xian in 1975.

# Late delivery

A picture postcard from Seaton in Devon has been delivered 55 years after it was sent. The card was addressed to Miss May Andrews, women's ward, at the now closed Cowley Road Hospital, Oxford.

# Stabbing death

Dennis Sefton, aged 25, who left a Christmas party in Hulme, Manchester, for some fresh air, died in hospital on Tuesday after being stabbed outside the house.

# 1989 holiday guide

# Travel firm criticizes Algarve resort

By David Cross

The holiday centre of Quarteira on the Algarve has so much building work in progress that it would make an ideal site for training Wimpey recruits, Hogg Robinson, the insurance and travel firm, says in its latest resort and holiday guide.

Gombet in Turkey is described as a "hillside building site two miles west of Bodrum". The roads are so awful that rally driving is the leisure activity most likely to catch on, the report adds.

The annual survey of 300 resorts and more than 3,000 hotels from Benidorm to Bangkok picks out a number of establishments that it would not recommend to visitors.

The Hotel Lovran in Pala, Yugoslavia, for example, is fitted with furnishings of the "sort that would be left unsold at a jumble sale", while the Hotel Romantica in Los Realejos, Tenerife, is so run down and seedy that it should be renamed

"Unromantica". "Our team also noticed the long bus queues bound for Rovine in Yugoslavia, which indicated the holiday-makers' keenness to get out of the Yllies Robin." Even recommended hotels come in for criticism. The Hotel Marabout at Sousse, Tunisia, is described as ideal for Michael Jackson fans because his 1972 album was played again and again every night.

In the Hotel Byblos Andaluz in Mijas on the Costa del Sol, you will not have to get up before the sun rises to reserve a sunbed because they are kept in your room. "We have been assured that they do not double up as beds", the survey comments.

At the other extreme, the Hotel Atis in Quartern has clearly embarked on a cost-saving exercise because there are only 13 sunbeds to be divided among all the guests. "This is definitely unwise for those who don't get down early enough."

The 1989 guide comments on 561 more

hotels than the 1988 version. In Florida, an extra 31 hotels and in Turkey, 170 establishments have been added to the list. Thirteen hotels have improved sufficiently during the past year to be taken off the blacklist and another 16 hotels criticized in the previous year's guide have been dropped by a number of tour operators.

Mr David Radcliffe, Hogg Robinson's leisure marketing director, said yesterday: "In the past year we have seen a massive growth in travel further afield, with America and the Far East leading in popularity."

"These are dream holidays which, without good advice, could turn into an expensive nightmare."

The four-volume *Recommended Resort and Holiday Guide* for summer 1989 is available for inspection by all holiday-makers at Hogg Robinson's 206 high street branches throughout the UK from today.

# Government figures rejected

# Homeless 'exceed a million'

By Anthony Hodges

The overall number of homeless people has passed the million mark for the first time and the figure is still rising, according to Shelter, the charity.

Miss Sheila McKechnie, director, said: "This is a horrifying new record. The Government has a policy of stopping councils building new homes because it believes local authorities should not be the providers of social housing. That is up to them."

"But if local authorities are not allowed to build affordable homes, who is? That is the question the Government has failed to answer."

The Government says there are 370,000 homeless, but

Shelter says that figure excludes many groups, notably most single homeless people.

The report also suggests that cuts in housing benefit are much greater than the Government says.

The reduction in low-cost rented accommodation is likely to increase the number of homeless, Shelter says. It believes, however, that pressure for change was coming from the Government's supporters.

The London docklands development was at risk unless housing could be found for the labour force, she said, schools in the big cities were finding it difficult to recruit staff

because housing was too expensive, and London Transport could not fill vacancies for the same reason.

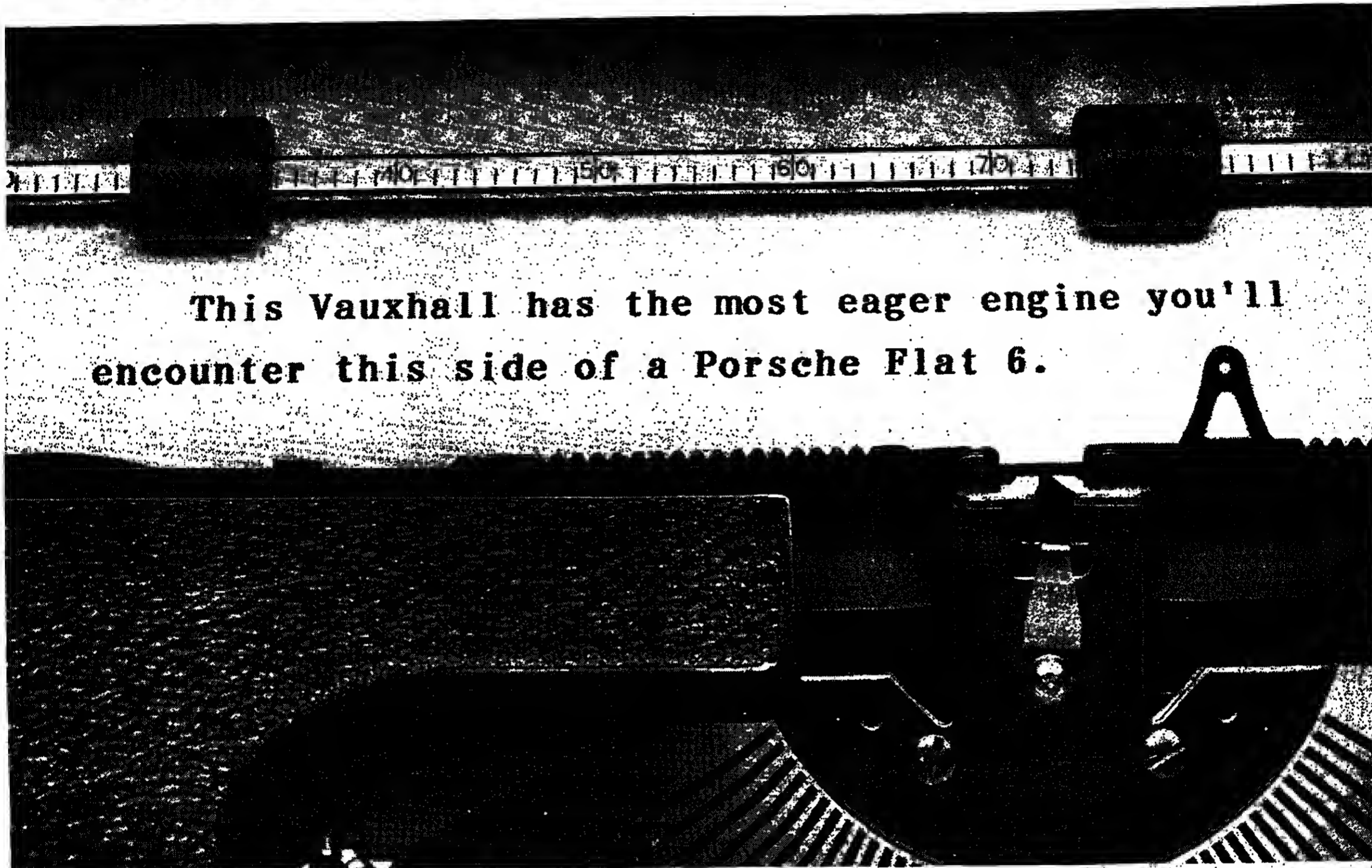
"Employers are beginning to squeal. There are signs that elements of the Government's natural support base are extremely worried about the economic consequences of government policies."

Crisis at Christmas, a charity that helped 2,000 homeless in London, has launched an appeal for £1 million.

After providing 12,000 hot meals and 50,000 cups of tea in the past week, the charity says it urgently needs funds to pay for other projects to help the homeless throughout the United Kingdom.



# WE THOUGHT OUR 16 VALVE ENGINE WAS INCOMPARABLE. APPARENTLY NOT.



This Vauxhall has the most eager engine you'll encounter this side of a Porsche Flat 6.

Hmm. The quote above was found in the May 1988 issue of 'Car' magazine.

Reinforcing the belief, it seems, that Vauxhall can build a good engine. Then again, it's not just a good engine. It's our best.

You see, we gave our engineers a bit of a problem.

"Build an engine that is not only flexible but with high power. Make it quiet, fuel-efficient and low on exhaust emissions.

Finally, it has to be easy to maintain but durable, compact and low in weight." Some problem.

But as we expected, they delivered the goods.

In the shape of the new Vauxhall 2.0 litre 16 valve engine. It pushes out 150 bhp.

And, when fitted in the Astra GTE, powers it from 0-60 in 7.6 seconds, and up to 135 mph.

Its real beauty, however, is its immediate and

powerful response to a demand for acceleration, (i.e. put your foot down and it goes like lightning).

Much of this is thanks to the introduction of the Bosch M2.5 Motronic engine management system.

A most important function of which is its Sequential Fuel Injection.

A bit of technical flim-flam that means the exact amount of fuel goes to each cylinder exactly when it is needed. Result: Instant exhilaration.

Nevertheless, this is just a start. As we speak, our designers are developing far superior engines.

So keep your eyes peeled on the car mags.

One day you may see a cutting that compares a Porsche Flat Six to a Vauxhall engine.

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# Trippier agrees to public debate on council housing laws

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The bitter political dispute over the transfer of council housing stock to new landlords will come to a head with a public debate between the junior housing minister and his Labour shadow.

Mr David Trippier, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, has taken up a challenge from Mr Clive Soley, the Opposition spokesman on housing, to discuss the new housing legislation in public.

They have been at loggerheads in an increasingly acrimonious and personal dispute about the voting methods used to determine whether council estates should transfer to new owners, and particularly over the provision that absentees are counted as votes in favour of a transfer.

Mrs Sally Oppenheim-Barnes, chairman of the National Consumer Council, is being approached to find out whether she will chair the debate.

Mr Trippier has written to Mr Soley saying he wants a debate to correct the misinformation and "erroneous statements" which he alleges the Labour spokesman has been making about tenants' choice provisions in the new

housing Act. The debate will come as Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, wrestles with a decision on the vote held by tenants of Torbay council on its proposal for a voluntary transfer of its housing stock under the Housing Act 1985.

That Act had no provisions for a ballot, but the council used the model of the 1988 Act.

The difference is that 20 per cent or more of tenants who voted against transfer will not, as under the 1988 tenants' choice provisions, be able to retain their local authority landlord.

Mr Ridley is required to determine in the Torbay case whether a majority of those eligible to vote favoured a transfer.

Ministers have accused Labour spokesmen of "whipping up fear and hysteria" about the proposals.

Mr Soley has accused the Government of publishing misleading information in its Department of Environment leaflet on tenants' choice. The pamphlet stated that each tenant who was eligible to vote would have to vote yes, no or abstain.

Any tenant reading that would think he had three choices, Mr Soley claimed. But that was a lie, and a lie paid for by the taxpayer, because if one abstained one was counted as having voted yes.

The Government has fiercely denied the allegation, pointing out that the leaflet said tenants could not have their homes transferred over their heads. It had stated that tenants who voted yes or abstained would become tenants of the new landlord.

The dispute has also centred on Labour claims, furiously denied by the Government, that people who had died would be included in the votes as having voted in favour, and that those tenants who did not vote to transfer would have to pay the rent set by the new landlord.

During an angry Commons clash in November, Mr Trippier extracted from Mr Soley a promise that he would denounce misleading information given to tenants before a ballot. He has since been embarrassing the Labour spokesman with leaflets containing allegedly inaccurate information about the powers and asking him to disown them.

# Musicians fly to Armenia's aid



Marianne Thorsen, aged 16, a violinist, and Thomas Watmough, aged 17, a clarinetist, will join nine other young musicians from the Parcell School of Music, Harrow on the Hill, north-west London, at Heathrow today en route for Moscow, where they will take part in a concert in aid of the Armenian Earthquake Disaster Fund. They will perform with

musicians from Norway, West Germany and other European countries at Moscow's Central Hall. Princess Margaret is to attend a Royal Opera House production on January 11 to raise money for the Armenian earthquake appeal. Members of the Bolshoi and Kirov ballets and Russian singers will take part.

# Houseboat fire kills mother and girls

By David Cross

A young mother died trying to save her two daughters yesterday when fire swept through their houseboat.

Mrs Elaine Rowe, aged 20, was filling a bucket with water from the bathroom when she was overcome by smoke. The fire brigade said:

Her body and those of her daughters, Sarah, aged three, and Victoria, aged two, were found in the converted Second World War motor gunboat in Hoo Marina, near Rochester, Kent. All three died of smoke inhalation.

Mr William Rowe, aged 30, who was working as a security guard in London at the time of the fire, was being comforted by relatives last night.

Owners of neighbouring boats tried to put out the fire with extinguishers but the fumes were too dense. Astrid Arthurs, aged 14, said: "It was high tide and the boat was rocking from side to side. The extinguisher was useless."

Her mother, Mrs Janet Arthurs, aged 35, added: "By the time we realised what was happening the blaze was well under way. We wanted to get the kiddies out but there was no chance."

Another neighbour, Mr Alec Grant, aged 53, said: "The children were lovely. Mischievous but sweet. We all feel terrible."

## TUC split on future strategy

# Mergers are changing map of trade unionism

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

The TUC general council, besieged by what it considers an increasing flood of anti-trade union legislation, is deeply divided over how the movement should develop to protect the interests of its members.

The debate over the future strategy and direction of the 81 unions affiliated to the TUC comes as union mergers and take-overs gather speed.

Increasingly, small unions are finding they cannot provide the range of services their members are demanding or compete on equal terms in the employment legislation field with multinational companies or public corporations. However, union leaders

are at odds about forming huge general unions or seeking "industrial union mergers" with affiliates.

Mr John Edmonds, chief architect of the "super block" strategy, believes that by 2000 there could be just four general unions, each with a membership of two million or more.

He believes that is the only way unions will be able to provide quality services and high-grade representation.

However, Mr Leslie Christie, general secretary of the National Union of Civil and Public Servants, believes such a move would severely weaken the influence of the TUC. "We would be left not with four unions, but with four trade union centres representing huge groups of workers with no real

identity of interest", he said. His union is considering instead a merger with the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA) to create a 240,000-strong union.

The CPSA, the biggest Whitehall union, is also being courted by the GMB, which has just merged with the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff to become Britain's second-largest union. The union that once claimed that spot, the Amalgamated Engineering Union, is hoping to combine with the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union.

Talks between Sogat, the largest print union, and the National Graphical Association may yet lead to a marriage, while the National Union of

Public Employees and the National and Local Government Officers' Association may also merge.

The Manufacturing, Science and Finance union and the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians are discussing links. The National Union of Seamen is balloting its members on whether to stay independent or merge with the National Union of Railwaymen or the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Even the the National Union of Mineworkers, which once made governments tremble, could cease to exist in 1989. Talks starting next month could lead to absorption in the massive maw of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

## Election of union officials

# Nupe first for secret ballot

By Roland Rudd, Employment Affairs Reporter

Leaders of the National Union of Public Employees (Nupe) will be the first appointed trade union officers to face election by secret postal ballot.

Mr Rodney Bickerstaffe, the union's general secretary, and Mr Tom Sawyer, deputy general secretary, will be the first to comply with the Employment Act 1988, which forces all appointed union officers to stand for election.

Mr Bickerstaffe, aged 43, who speaks for health service workers, and Mr Sawyer, aged 45, chairman of the Labour Party's home policy com-

mittee, were appointed in 1982. They are vociferous critics of the Government.

Miss Ina Love, the union's president, says in a confidential circular to all branches that elections "have been forced on us by an anti-trade union government, at a time when the union is facing critical battles to defend the jobs and interests of all Nupe members. The union has no alternative but to comply, despite the fact that our own system of appointments and accountability, built up over the hundred years of exis-

tence, has worked as well." Other union leaders have taken action to circumvent the Act, which comes into force in July. Mr Neil Milligan, aged 63, general secretary of Aslef, the rail drivers' union, has retired early so a successor can be elected by the union's branch block votes system. Its next general secretary will not have to face a secret ballot until 1994.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the National Union of Mineworkers president, called an election earlier this year to avoid the postal ballot requirement.

EYES AND EARS TO DEFEND AGAINST ALL THREATS IN THE AIR



The Hawk moth is far from defenceless. It can hear the approach of a bat long before the opposition's acoustic sensor becomes effective.

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38 DAYS TO GO



THE RIGHT CHOICE

NOW, THE £80 DISH

Britain's most exciting countdown stands at 38 days as Sky Television announces exciting new programmes, fabulous new deals in the high street and important new sponsorship opportunities for advertisers

VIEWERS can tune into the Sky Television service for just £80 down in a fabulous deal being offered by DER and Radio Rentals, the high street television rental specialists.

It's the latest in a series of offers that confirms Sky Television's six channels as the best bargain in Britain.

Their New Year present to viewers is a satellite dish for just £80. After paying a nominal installation fee, viewers who already rent equipment will get the set-top converter for just £9.99 a month. Those not renting already will pay only £12.99.

Of course, it all plugs into your existing television set - there's no need to buy a new one.

It adds up to even more choice for Sky viewers. Dixons and Currys are already offering top-quality Amstrad dishes for outright sale at £199, or £249 with a convenient remote control unit.

The decision of Sky to use the same proven technology as your existing television means that in the months ahead, it will be even easier than expected for viewers to join in the fun of Sky Television's six channels.

And to make a good deal even better, viewers who invest in the equipment for Sky will be ready for even more choice in the future!

In addition to the six channels being provided by Sky, there will be at least THREE more English-language

The deals are getting keener as high street retailers gear up to offer satellite dishes for Sky TV

channels to choose from on our Astra satellite - 9 channels altogether.

And when a second Astra is launched, there will be even MORE channels to choose from. "Sky is bringing in a supermarket choice of programmes to replace the cornucopia offerings available up to now," said Andrew Neil, Executive Chairman of Sky Television.

The Sky selection of entertainment includes Europe's first and best satellite entertainment station, Sky

Channel. With soap operas, game shows and chat, Sky offers something for everyone in the family.

But there's much more to come.

Sky Movies, the first satellite film channel, will feature the best of Hollywood and British titles. Deals have already been signed with Twentieth Century Fox, Touchstone and Warner Brothers, and more great films will be announced soon.

For the sports fan in the family, Sky offers something really special: Eurosport, the all-action sport channel, with a feast of top-class competition.

Sky News will beam the top stories 24 hours a day, along with fascinating features and provocative interviews.

And later, there will be Sky Arts, the performance and visual arts station, providing the best in concerts, opera, drama and ballet.

But there's even more to come! From the spring, The Disney Channel will bring the Magic Kingdom to your living room with classic cartoons, films and made for television features.

The Disney Channel will be available on subscription, along with Sky Movies, for just £12 a month.

The hot competition in the high street guarantees that viewers who want to tune in to Sky will have the widest possible choice of equipment at the keenest possible prices.

Leading international brand names join Sky in sponsorship deals

TOP international companies are lining up to be part of the Sky Television entertainment revolution.

Ford, Coca-Cola and Nescafe are among the first major sponsors of programmes on the 24-hour general entertainment station, Sky Channel.

The Ford Ski Report will bring viewers the excitement of the 1989 World Alpine Skiing Championships.

From Vail, Colorado, presenters Ray Robinson and Katie Foster, both experienced skiers themselves, will be following the fortunes of the world's top skiers, especially for Sky.

The championships conclude with the slalom event when the explosive Italian, Alberto Tomba, will be trying to add to the two gold medals he won in 1988.

The Ford Ski Report will also go behind the scenes for interviews, resort reports and reviews of all that's new in the world of ski fashion and equipment.

As an added bonus, for the active enthusiast, Sky offers twice weekly five minute reports on the snow and weather

conditions at Europe's top ski resorts.

Nescafe has meanwhile signed up as sponsor of the UK Top 40 chart show. It will be presented by Capital Radio DJ Pat Sharp from the streets of major cities throughout Britain.

The demand from major companies to join the Sky Television revolution is expected to grow even more in the months ahead. Sky's sales department is ready to assist advertisers to tailor a unique sponsorship package, but Whitington warns:

"We're not looking for any kind of sponsorship deal. We are looking only for those deals that will give viewers the best in entertainment."

the first time give viewers in Britain the chance to tune in to the top European sounds with their Sky satellite dish.

"These important sponsorship deals prove that Sky Television is offering advertisers entirely new types of opportunities to put their products before viewers," said Mike Whitington, Sky Television's director of sales.

"This is the first time that advertisers in the UK have had the chance to sponsor programmes in this way. We believe that sponsorship will play a big role in Sky, to allow viewers to receive top quality programmes, while giving advertisers a unique platform," he added.

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"We're not looking for any kind of sponsorship deal. We are looking only for those deals that will give viewers the best in entertainment."



Sky sponsors... "Landing this is even more exciting than almost making the top 10 with my first single," said Spar, 27, whose cover version of Let's All Chant reached the number 11 position in the charts this year. Adding a new dimension to the entertainment on Sky, Coca-Cola will sponsor a unique European chart show. Available for the past three years to audiences throughout Europe, the Eurochart will for



Outrageous Derek Jameson trumps Wogan on Sky Channel

Jameson scoops top job on Sky

TOP COCKNEY Derek "Del Boy" Jameson is to become the new king of chat - exclusively on Sky Channel.

Jameson says his new show starting in February on Sky is the "most exciting thing that has ever happened to me."

And in a dig at the competition, he added: "This gives me what Wogan has always wanted - a late-night chat show, five times a week."

Jameson Tonight will be outrageous, but most of all entertaining, promised the former Fleet Street editor turned media star.

"Working for a new TV service with six channels is tremendously exciting. It's the biggest development in television for 30 years."

Jameson, 59, will go out on Sky each night at 10.30pm and his action-packed show will feature celebrity interviews, live music and controversy.

"Being on late at night means I can be more outspoken than other chat show hosts," Jameson said. "Wogan's show is predictable. I will go where others fear to tread."

Satellite expert takes a knife to MAC

TOP satellite expert Steve Birkill has warned consumers to be careful when they evaluate the claims being made for the various satellite systems.

He says the PAL television system currently in use - and chosen by Sky for all its programmes - is just fine for satellite reception.

Claims being made by a rival satellite group which has selected a new and complicated transmission system called MAC should not be believed, he suggests.

MAC's backers have made a series of claims about their system that are "not only misleading, they're simply not true," Birkill says.

Sky Television has rejected MAC. We feel it adds expense and complexity to television without offering benefits to viewers. We believe viewers will not want to throw away their television sets and start again.

Birkill, who is credited with building the FIRST home satellite television system in Britain, has been taking a hard look at the claims being made for MAC, and agrees.

In an article in Satellite A-Z, an authoritative trade publication, he says:

● Forget better pictures and sound from MAC. The MAC transmissions planned by some others will have to be re-converted back to the standard PAL colour system before they can be viewed on most television receivers.

● Forget promises that MAC will offer wide-screen TV. It will be years before such

sets are available, and when they are, MAC could itself be obsolete.

● Forget taping programmes in MAC. Your home VCR will work only in PAL.

● Forget the claims that only MAC can offer stereo sound and other refinements. PAL is capable of providing stereo, too, he says.

Birkill says Sky "made a wise move in choosing conventional technology, PAL, to generate an inexpensive direct-to-home

satellite TV mass consumer market in 1989" and the expensive PAL technology will continue as Europe's main broadcasting system for years and years.

Birkill notes, too, that those planning to introduce MAC television will require viewers to buy a special aerial that will not be able to receive Sky programmes. But those who buy dishes for Sky will be able to upgrade them later, if MAC ever does take off.



Amstrad dishes come off the production line

SKY LINES

Welcome aboard!

VIEWERS who buy the dish to tune into the six wonderful channels offered by Sky Television will get an extra bonus - three more English-language channels. W H Smith plans to take two channels on Sky's Astra satellite; publisher Robert Maxwell is taking a third, for a music television channel. We welcome these new channels onto Astra. We believe that the competition among different programmers means even more value for viewers. So when you go out to choose a dish, make sure you get the one that will bring you the most - the dish for Sky.

Promoting Sky A TOP London advertising agency has been named to

handle the massive media campaign planned for the launch of Sky. Lowe Howard-Spink is planning an exciting burst of advertisements to tell the public about the benefits of Sky Television. Watch your neighbourhood poster sites!

Choice dish GRUNDIG, the respected German electronics company, predicts that it will sell more than 100,000 satellite receivers and dishes in 1989, worth more than £40m. The Grundig satellite system will be available at DER, Multi-Broadcast and Focus outlets for rental and at Rumbelows for outright purchase. Grundig claims that its system is technically outstanding; it includes a high-tech, stylish dish and a set-top tuner capable of receiving 49 separate channels - so it's ready for the new satellite services of the future.

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Washington spells out punitive tariffs in response to 'unfair' ban on meat exports

EEC 'blocking efforts to avert a trade war'

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The United States, citing "unfair trade practices" by the European Community, announced details yesterday of European imports that will be subject to a punitive 100 per cent tariff.

Mr Clayton Yeutter, President-elect George Bush's Agriculture Secretary and presently the US Trade Representative, accused European countries of blocking efforts to resolve the latest trade skirmish under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The new tariffs are in retaliation for a European ban on US beef imports that contain growth hormones. Mr Yeutter said the Community had yet to present any evidence that proper use of the hormones threatened human health. "Therefore the decision to implement the ban constitutes an unfair trade practice," he said.

The US measures take effect at 12.01 am on Sunday. "We are not looking for this to become nasty and ugly," Miss Kelly Shipp, an aide to Mr Yeutter, said. Other officials, however, expressed concern that the skirmish could be the beginning of a bitter trade war. Officials of both countries are expected to get together early next year to assess the situation and stop it from escalating.

The European ban, which affects most American beef, will cost US beef producers \$100 million (£58.8 million) a year in lost sales.

Producers have already halted shipments to Europe in anticipation of the ban. The American tariffs cover European beef, pork hams and shoulders (excluding those pre-cooked and packaged), canned tomatoes; soluble or instant coffee extracts; fruit juices; wine "coolers" — a mixture of wine and soda water — and pet food. They, too, are worth about \$100 million.

The US move further strains US-European trade relations at a time of separate fights over global farm-trade

Europe must confront the United States in "John Wayne" fashion over the threatened trade war, a Conservative MP said yesterday (Richard Ford, Political Correspondent, writes).

Mr Kenneth Warren, chairman of the all-party House of Commons trade and industry committee, said neither Europe nor America would win a trade war, but the EEC must stand firm against "macho" attitudes in the US.

reforms, and American concerns that the European Community's planned market integration in 1992 will damage US interests.

"I regret that the United States is forced to retaliate," Mr Yeutter said. A statement issued by his office said the daily production of hormones in humans, even in the most sensitive segment of the population, was far higher than the minuscule levels left in meat from treated animals.

It added that the tariff increases would remain in effect "as long as US meat trade is interrupted due to the ban. The size of the retaliation reflects the estimated amount of lost sales opportunities for US meat exporters."

The higher tariffs will have only a minimal effect on American consumers. Wine coolers, for example, account for less than 0.2 per cent of US wine cooler sales.

The tariffs are bound to knock European hams off the US shelf, however. A ham that costs \$8 at the supermarket costs the US company that imports it about \$5, so its retail price will rise to \$13.

BRUSSELS: The EEC Trade Commissioner, Mr Willy De Clercq, said yesterday that the retaliatory measures announced by the Americans "are totally unjustified and contrary to the international trade rules laid down in the GATT" (A Correspondent writes).

"Any country, and this includes the European Community, is entitled to take whatever measures it judges necessary to protect the health of consumers provided this is done in a non-discriminatory way," he said.

The retaliatory measures announced by the Americans are a 100 per cent increase in duties on seven categories of products coming from various EEC countries.

The trade that will be affected is as follows: \$6 million of exports a year of boneless beef from Denmark and \$1 million of boneless beef from Ireland; \$300,000 of pork hams and shoulders from

Denmark; \$24 million of tinned tomatoes from Italy and \$11 million from Spain; \$13 million of instant coffee from Germany and \$2 million from The Netherlands; \$37 million of fermented alcoholic beverages containing less than 7 per cent alcohol by volume from Italy (mostly wine-coolers), and about \$1 million each of alcoholic drinks from Spain and France; \$9 million of fruit juices from the Netherlands and Belgium; \$13.5 million of pet food from Germany and \$2 million from Britain.

According to the EEC, Italy will be the country most affected by the US measures, with about \$60 million worth of trade a year put in jeopardy. Germany at \$35 million and Spain at \$12 million are the next most affected, while Portugal, Greece and Luxembourg will not be involved at all in the dispute.

As counter-retaliation, EEC foreign ministers have agreed to a list of imported American products on which duties could be raised by up to 100 per cent, although there will have to be a further meeting of the Council of Ministers to agree to the level of duties.

The US products already singled out for counter-retaliation measures by the EEC include natural honey, shelled walnuts and dried fruit.

An EEC spokesman yesterday confirmed that the EEC's counter-retaliation could go into effect as early as next week. But he said that the EEC is still open for talks and is keen to get a settlement.



On the attack: President-elect George Bush, whose future Administration faces a bitter trade wrangle with the European Community, out hunting quail in Berclair, Texas.

'Not a hazard' for humans

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The proper use of growth hormones in meat production posed "no conceivable hazard" to human health, Europe's leading researcher in the field said yesterday.

Professor Eric Lamming, of Nottingham University, who chaired a scientific committee set up by the European Parliament to investigate the subject, strongly criticized the decision to introduce a European Community ban on importing meat from the United States which had been treated with the hormones.

The ban takes effect on Sunday, but Professor Lamming said yesterday: "The issue has gone beyond scientific evidence and has become one of politics and international trade. It is a very unfortunate situation. The evidence has been ignored in favour of misinformed consumer pressure."

After four years' research, Professor Lamming and 21 other European experts in toxicology concluded three years ago that there was no risk to humans in eating meat from animals properly treated with three natural hormones, testosterone, oestradiol and progesterone.

In 1987, after further investigations, the experts gave the same verdict on two synthetic compounds.

However, despite the evidence which it had requested from the committee, the European Parliament banned the use of all five products.

Glasnost for the traveller

Moscow to ease entry and exit restrictions

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

The Soviet Union is to introduce what it says will be sweeping changes in its entry and exit regulations in an attempt to make travel to and from the country easier. Many of the restrictions which currently apply to Soviet citizens abroad are to be lifted.

The Soviet attitude to dual citizenship is to be revised, and Moscow is reviewing the possibility of joining the 1963 Vienna convention on consular relations.

Precise details of the proposed changes are not yet available, but the general outline emerged from a meeting of Soviet consular officials in Moscow yesterday which was addressed by the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze.

In a newspaper interview last week, Mr Shevardnadze said the revision of entry and exit regulations was an urgent priority, along with better guarantees of civil and human rights.

These are areas of the 1975 Helsinki agreement in which the Soviet Union's performance has been judged to be particularly deficient.

Announcing the new regulations, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr Gennady Gerasimov, said that the meeting on consular matters had heard strong criticism of the behaviour and calibre of Soviet consular staff abroad. Some, he said, had been accused of being obstructive and insulting, especially to former-Soviet citizens married to foreigners or — as Mr Gerasimov expressed it colourfully — had chosen to take

their romance in the export model. There would be extensive changes in personnel and an attempt would be made to bring the standard of consular staff up to that required by the Soviet Union's "new thinking" on foreign policy.

The future guideline for the Soviet Union's 194 consulates abroad would be consular relations with a human face.

At first glance, the most striking changes would appear to be in the Soviet Union's treatment of its own citizens and former citizens. There are estimated to be more than 150,000 Soviet citizens living abroad, and about 20,000 emigres (described by Mr Gerasimov as compatriots).

Until now even Soviet citizens with an up-to-date Soviet passport and no grudge against the authorities had had to have either a personal invitation or a ticket for an organized tour in order to visit their home country. It is not clear whether these are among the rules which will be dropped.

The position of emigres interested in returning, even for a visit, has been even more difficult. Most have been barred from returning at all, and those who have been stripped of their Soviet citizenship while abroad have risked prosecution for treachery if they return.

The past two years have seen a gradual relaxation in Moscow's attitude to emigres, with acknowledgements that those who left during the Stalin and Brezhnev years often had reason and should not be considered traitors.

The Soviet authorities are reported to have put out feelers to some eminent Russians abroad, asking whether they might be interested in returning, temporarily or permanently, and leading artists and sportsmen are increasingly being allowed to accept contracts in the West.

The ballet dancer and choreographer Rudolf Nureyev is one of those who has benefited from the new approach. The work of emigre Russian writers, including Grossman and Voinovich but not yet Solzhenitsyn, is also being published in the Soviet Union.

The new regulations should also benefit Soviet citizens wanting to go abroad. At present, a whole series of vetting procedures is required before an individual can participate even in a group trip to a foreign country.

For those wanting to travel individually, the procedures for obtaining a foreign passport are even more rigorous.

One unconfirmed report suggests that in future, most people who want to travel will be allowed to do so long as they can find the trip themselves. This may dissuade the majority, who will lack access to foreign currency and who may be reluctant to be funded entirely by their hosts, but it would remove the requirement of political soundness before a person is issued with a passport.

Mr Gerasimov said yesterday that it was hoped the new regulations would make business travel to and from the Soviet Union easier.

Sakharov on peace mission to Armenia

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Soviet physicist and human rights campaigner, spent four days last week on a fact-finding visit to the Transcaucasian republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan, it was revealed yesterday.

Dr Sakharov and his wife, Mrs Yelena Bonner, were among a group of Soviet academics who had talks with leading Armenian and Azerbaijani academics. They also visited the region of Nagorno-Karabakh which is at the centre of the continuing dispute between the two republics.

Although Nagorno-Karabakh is administered by Azerbaijan, its population is predominantly Armenian. Armenians claim that the region's development has been neglected and their people discriminated against.

Mr Gennady Gerasimov, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, said yesterday that the visit was unofficial and had nothing to do with any attempt Moscow might be trying to make to mediate between the two republics.

Group visits by Soviet academics for discussions with their counterparts elsewhere in the Soviet Union are commonplace, but this visit takes on particular significance because leading intellec-

tuals in Armenia and Azerbaijan have been accused by Moscow of fomenting the nationalist unrest.

Early last summer President Gorbachov summoned leading writers from the two republics and reportedly asked them to use their influence to appeal for calm.

Dr Sakharov, because of his human rights activity and support for Mr Gorbachov's reform programme, now enjoys special respect in many parts of the Soviet Union.

He could also be regarded as an impartial figure in the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute, where intervention by Communist Party and government at local and national level has

failed. Many Armenians had hoped that Mr Gorbachov would agree to the transfer of Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia, but he rejected that solution. They no longer believe that he can be an impartial arbiter.

Violence has afflicted both republics for nearly a year. In February, incidents in and around Nagorno-Karabakh culminated in what has been officially described as a pogrom against Armenians living in the Azerbaijani city of Sumgait in which 32 people are reported to have been killed.

More than 60 people in all are acknowledged to have died in the unrest and about 100,000 refugees have fled from each republic.

Violence flared again in November after a Moscow court sentenced to death Akhmed Akhmedov, an Azerbaijani said to be one of the ringleaders of the pogrom in Sumgait. Mass demonstrations in Baku and Yerevan, the capitals of Azerbaijan and Armenia respectively, over the summer led to both cities being placed under curfew. A modified form of martial law is also in operation in many regions of both republics.

Rumours and recriminations about the behaviour of Azerbaijan after the earthquake in Armenia have only inflamed passions further.

Soviet convoy leaves Kabul

From Edward Gorman, Kabul

Amid growing speculation of an imminent resumption of the Soviet troop withdrawal, a large military convoy left Kabul early yesterday heading north up the Salang highway.

The convoy, of about 200 vehicles, began assembling at the huge Khair Khana Soviet marshalling and maintenance base on the northern perimeter of the city at dawn.

Traffic on the highway was brought to a halt by Afghan police, and for three hours armoured personnel carriers, ammunition trucks, lorries carrying spare parts and fuel, and huge transporters each carrying two APCs moved off in a thick cloud of dust and engine smoke. The convoy was headed by a fleet of eight Hind helicopter gunships flying at low level on either side of the road.

Soldiers outside the base of the 103 Guard's Airborne Division, stamping their feet to keep warm in lightly falling snow, said the column was heading for Jhalalabad, just south of the Salang tunnel at the base of the Panjshir valley.

Coming just a day after the Kabul regime issued a threat of military action against the Mujahadin in the valley unless they ceased attacks there, analysts here believe that the convoy is part of efforts to improve security on the road before the start of the final withdrawal.

The Russians are estimated to have about 50,000 troops remaining in Afghanistan which must be out of the country by February 15 under the terms of an agreement signed at Geneva in April.

While Moscow continued to threaten a postponement, United Nations officials here say they are confident that the Russians will meet the agreed deadline.

"We have not seen any reason to doubt the sincerity with which they are sticking to the agreement — we think they are leaving," said Mr Benon Sevan, representative in Kabul of the UN observer mission. He said he expected at least 30,000 of the troops to go by air and that the Russians would leave large amounts of equipment behind.

Meanwhile, military activity around the city has been steadily escalating since Christmas Day. On Tuesday night outgoing artillery and multiple rocket barrages created a spectacular light show to the north.

A Western diplomat on the roof of his house, armed with a stopwatch to time the delay between muzzle flash and explosion, estimated that the rounds were landing about 20 miles away on the Shomali plain where guerrillas of the fundamentalist Hezb-i Islami (Hekmatiyar) faction are active.

Earlier, intensive exchanges of heavy machine-gun fire, also to the north, suggested resistance activity within the city limits.

Gandhi to break ice with Pakistan

From Anatoli Lieven, Islamabad

Mr Rajiv Gandhi meets Miss Benazir Bhutto here today at the start of the summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) — the first meeting between the two, and the first official visit of an Indian Prime Minister to Pakistan for almost 25 years.

The Prime Ministers are expected to hold three meetings outside the SAARC deliberations, which will meanwhile continue the painstaking task of building up low-level common regional institutions.

The SAARC Council of Foreign Ministers met yesterday to finalize the summit's draft declaration, which the leaders will discuss.

The council also reviewed current SAARC projects. Most are fairly low level measures, such as academic exchange programmes. Concerning the two most important issues of co-operation

in South Asia, the ministers asked member states to implement the new regional convention on terrorism, and reviewed the progress of a study on the causes and consequences of natural disasters and on the protection of the environment.

This study is to be completed by April 1990, and Bangladesh will host a meeting of co-ordinators of the study in the next three months. It has, however, been widely seen as a substitute for any rapid joint action.

The long absence of Indian prime ministerial visits to Pakistan reflect the traditional hostility between the two countries. They have fought three wars, and there are continuing border clashes in mountainous northern Kashmir, especially on and around the disputed Siachen Glacier. This is an area where Miss Bhutto has said she hopes for improved relations.

Strike threatens Sudan's coalition

From Andrew Buckoke, Nairobi

As anti-Government demonstrations continued in Khartoum and other Sudanese cities yesterday, the country's largest trade union federation called an indefinite general strike from today. The move will put additional strains on the coalition Government of Mr Saïd al-Mahdi, the Prime Minister, the fragility of which has been exposed by a series of recent setbacks.

The two-million-member Sudan Workers' Trade Union Federation called the strike in response to a 60 per cent increase in sugar prices, a 50 per cent increase in cigarette prices, and a new 15 per cent tax on all locally produced consumer goods. The increases were designed to offset the wage increases of up to 500 per cent for public sector workers agreed by the Government at the beginning of the week.

Although the unions are demanding the cancellation of the price increases and the back-dating of the wage increases to July 1 — the Government proposes December 1 — the demonstrations and strikes seem as much from the general drift and decline in Sudan since Mr al-Mahdi's first coalition came to power in May, 1986. Elections in April, 1986, ended the year of transitional military government that followed the ousting of

the former leader, President Nimeiry, whose downfall was itself precipitated by mass demonstrations and strikes against price increases and food shortages.

Mr al-Mahdi's mandate was to pursue an end to the civil war in southern Sudan, in particular by repealing the Islamic Sharia law which is a symbol of northern, Muslim domination of the Christian and animist southerners.

Nothing happened until early this month, however, when there were signs that progress towards ending the five-year war might be possible.

Mr al-Mahdi's Umma Party, the largest in Parliament, agreed to proceed on the basis of a draft peace agreement signed in November in Addis Ababa between its main coalition partner, the Democratic Unionist Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Army. The Prime Minister confidently predicted a ceasefire by mid-December, and the convening of the long awaited constitutional conference on Sudan's future political structure by year's end.

The optimism was soon dispelled by the indefinite postponement of the departure of a delegation to Addis Ababa to discuss ceasefire terms with the Liberation Army. Colonel John Garang, the organization's leader, said it had never been approached about the visit in the first place, while Sudanese ministers had talks in Khartoum with Lieutenant-Colonel Fikre-Selassie Wogderess, President Mengistu's deputy.

The discussions with the Ethiopians suggested that Mr al-Mahdi had reverted to his often repeated position that the southern war was due more to Ethiopian intervention in the form of support for the Liberation Army than to legitimate southern grievances. They also suggested he sympathized with the fundamentalist National Islamic Front, the third largest coalition partner, a fervent supporter of Sharia and a strong opponent of the Unionists' draft peace agreement, which proposes the freezing of Sharia.



Mr al-Mahdi: Leader under pressure.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Envoys see Briton held in Iran jail

Iran yesterday took a further step towards better relations with Britain by allowing two British diplomats to visit Mr Roger Cooper, a businessman who has been held without trial since 1985 (Andrew McEwen writes).

But while the Foreign Office and his family were encouraged, both felt some disappointment that Tehran stopped short of the more dramatic gesture it made on Tuesday, when Mr Nicholas Nicola, the maverick British prisoner in Iran, was unexpectedly released.

Mr Gordon Pirie, the acting British Charge d'Affaires, and Mr Victor Welborn, the Consul, spent 20 minutes with Mr Cooper at Tehran's Evin maximum security prison. With only one guard present they were able to have what sources described as "a pleasant conversation, free and easy". They said he was in good heart and looked fit and well.

The Foreign Office said it was pleased that Mr Pirie had been given access to Mr Cooper, but added: "We must not lose sight of the fact that he is still in detention."

Cafe battle resumes

Paris — The prolonged family battle for control of the Pegasus Bridge Cafe, the D-Day landmark near Caen which was the first building in France to fall to British troops, has taken a new turn (Philip Jacobson writes). Lawyers for Mme Françoise Gondree-Anquetil, one of three daughters in whom the original owner bequeathed the property, are to contest the legality of its sale earlier this month for £160,000 to her sister, Mme Arlette Gondree-Pritchett. The auction had been conducted, Normandy-style, by using lighted candles to time bids.

King to meet rebels

Madrid (NYT) — King Hassan of Morocco has agreed to meet guerrillas of the Polisario Front, who have fought his troops for 13 years over the Western Sahara and whose existence he has until now refused to acknowledge.

Diplomats said the agreement to talk directly was a significant development in efforts to end the desert war, which is at a stalemate. While both sides had previously agreed on a peace plan that called for a referendum on the territory's future, King Hassan steadfastly rejected requests by Polisario leaders for face-to-face talks.

Korea talks planned

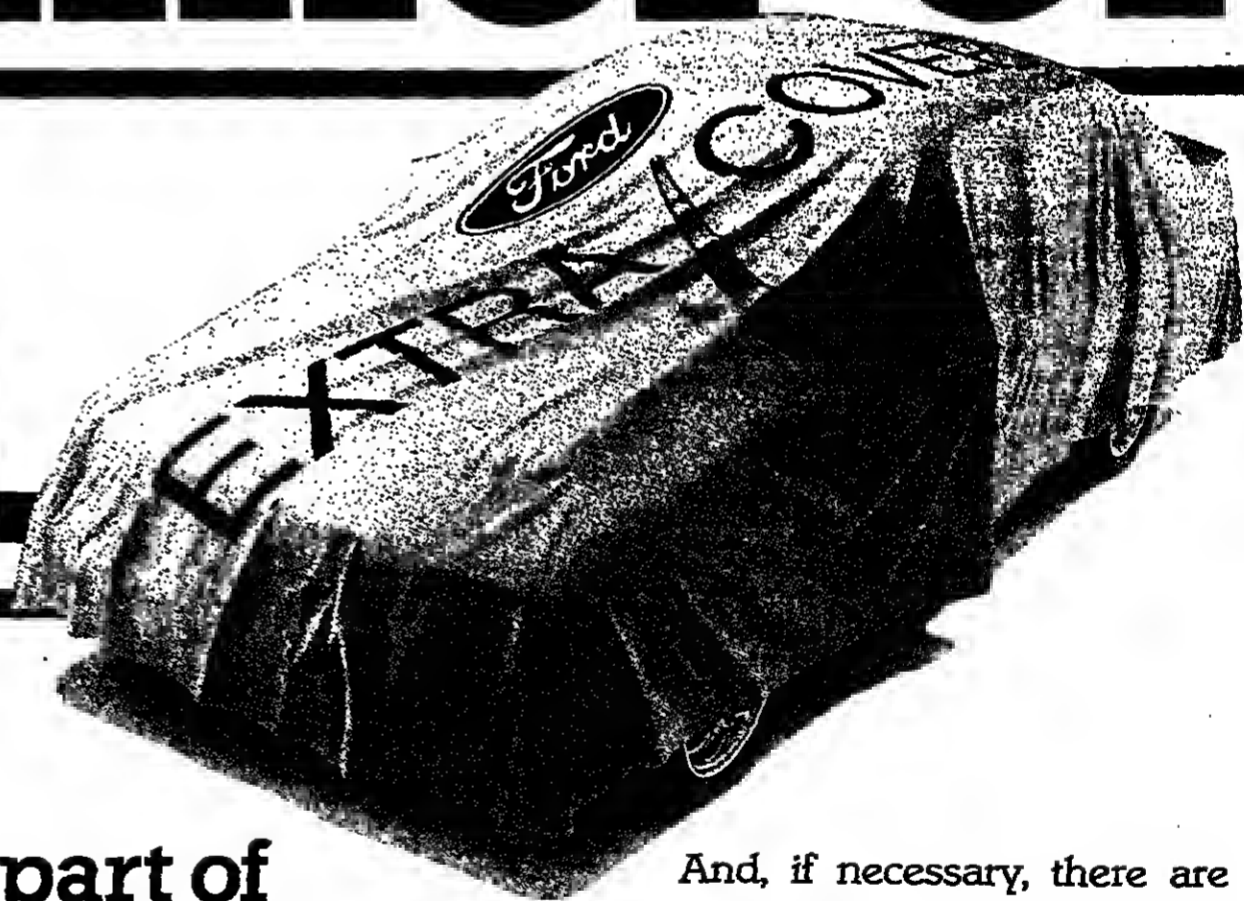
Seoul (AP) — South Korea yesterday agreed to high-level political and military talks aimed at reducing tension on the divided peninsula. Mr Kang Young Hoon, South Korea's Prime Minister, suggested in a letter to his North Korean counterpart, Mr Yon Hyung Muk, that they head delegations to alternating talks in Seoul and Pyongyang to discuss non-interference, co-operation in select areas and building "mutual trust" in military matters. But the South's response fell short of a North Korean proposal in November for wide-ranging talks on cutting military forces.

Mendes case suspects

Rio de Janeiro — Brazilian police are interrogating four more men suspected of being involved in last week's murder of Francisco Mendes Filho, the internationally acclaimed Amazonian ecologist and labour leader (Mac Margolis writes). These arrests bring to five the number of men being held in connection with the case. All the detainees are related. However, police in the north-western state of Acre say the two chief suspects, Senhor Darly Alves, a rancher, and his brother, Alvarino, are still at large.



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Bicentenary of the French Revolution

Focal point missing for 'the impossible anniversary'

From Phillip Jacobson Paris

By a peculiar but pleasing coincidence, as France prepares to celebrate the bicentenary of the revolution that unseated its monarchy, a battle royal is raging between the two great houses that still lay claim to the throne.

Sparing the details, which fill many a page of the *Almanach de Gotha*, the Orleans and the Bourbons each have an official Pretender, whose rights and titles have long been the subject of acrimonious disagreement in court.

Good harmless fun for the French of the Fifth Republic, yet opinion polls put support for the restoration of the monarchy at around 17 per cent. In another of the polls which they so adore, the French appear to give a decisive thumbs-down to the notion that the revolution still evokes a thrill in their republican soul. Most of those questioned said they did not believe that the ideals of *egalite*

and *fraternite* were alive and well in France today, though *liberte* fared rather better.

So what should an outsider conclude from all this about contemporary attitudes to 1789, the bicentenary and the countless commemorative events, great and small, that will be taking place throughout the land over the next 12 months?

Back in January, *Le Quotidien de Paris* declared, under a challenging headline "The Impossible Anniversary", that the essential, troubling question remained to be answered: "What is it that we will be celebrating in 1989?"

The fact is, the French really do not know, or rather, they find it quite impossible to agree among themselves. Hardly surprising, given the endless debate about who really comprised the "people" that gave France its revolution and who shouldered the blame for the blood subsequently shed in its name (there is even doubt about the Bastille having fallen on July 14). As a result, while new books on

the subject come rattling off the press in their hundreds; while scores of new plays, poems, films and exhibitions will be laid before the public; while canny entrepreneurs prepare to clean up with tricolour *baguettes* and *bricoles*, "Made in 1789" T-shirts and working models of Madame Guillotine, there is still no broad consensus about the real purpose of the bicentenary celebrations.

Perhaps the official programme yields some clues, some evidence of a focal point for the year-long affair? The 1989 centenary was, after all, marked by a highly successful international exposition in Paris, the opening of the Eiffel Tower and the inauguration of the city's new zoological gardens. In short, a pretty good show for France and the French, particularly if you were in Paris.

Well, 1989 was meant to see another World Fair mounted here, but that idea sank without trace, victim, say some insiders, of political in-fighting between President Mitterrand and his former

conservative Prime Minister, M Jacques Chirac, who was, and still is, Mayor of the capital as well.

There was also supposed to be a grand light and music show mounted in the middle of Paris by Jean-Michel Jarre. Alas, that has foundered too, and again the rumours attribute this to the determination of M Mitterrand and M Chirac to do each other down at every opportunity during bicentenary year.

Setting politics and prejudice aside, the closest thing to an uncontroversial theme running through bicentenary year is its celebration of the Declaration of the Rights of Man. The only permanent monument that the 1989 celebrations will leave behind is the great arch of La Defense — an enormous concrete cube with a hollow centre being erected in the business zone on the western fringe of Paris.

As plans stand, it will eventually house a Foundation for the Rights of Man, a combination of research institute and ethical think-tank. If

there was any justice, it would be named after Edgar Faure, the veteran French politician who died in harness (like his predecessor) as director of the much troubled Bicentenary Commission.

He first conceived the idea of locating the Foundation in a building that would provide a majestic perspective looking down through the Arc de Triomphe into Place de la Concorde, where Louis XVI and others fell to the sharp blade of revolutionary justice.

In a rather different category, President Mitterrand's pet project, the futuristic pyramid in the courtyard of the Louvre — admired and despised with equal fervour by those who view it — is to become accessible to the public during the 1989 celebrations. The new opera house at La Bastille is scheduled to open its doors with a July 13 gala performance. Given the problems that have plagued it, opening on time for the public in January, 1990, would be a significant achievement.

As for the Arc de Triomphe,

when it finally emerges from the shroud of red, white and blue plastic sheeting that covers urgent reconstruction work, we can look forward to seeing a dozen obelisks of glass and stone surrounding it, emitting brilliant beams of light every hour as they mark time and date in accordance, appropriately, with contemporary and revolutionary calendars.

And that is quite enough of Paris, where the chattering classes tend to dismiss the coming celebrations, with exquisite condescension, as the "bicentenaire arlesienne" — an irredeemably provincial affair. And in fact, the provinces do seem to be a great deal more enthusiastic about 1789.

At last count, the Bicentenary Commission had registered some 4,000 celebratory projects outside the capital.

As is right and proper, 1789 will also be remembered and much toasted abroad. Almost 1,500 projects have been approved, the majority in the United States and Latin America,

where events in France were to stamp themselves indelibly on national destiny (though West Germany will also be mounting a Festival of Liberty in West Berlin).

But while the many *grandes spectacles* planned will certainly give the crowds plenty to cheer about, there still seems to be a curious void at the centre of bicentenary celebrations. According to M Andre Glucksmann, the French philosopher and intellectual — the latter a full-time professional here — the public will find itself presented with "a pasteurized, dissected, cling-wrapped revolution".

The centenary of 1789, M Glucksmann argues, had "trumped that the Revolution had triumphed and was over". This time around, in his stern judgement, there is no serious attempt to encourage ordinary people to examine 1789 and what it gave rise to in France as a historic whole, "with its pages of glory and moments of horror".

Inquiry condemns appalling neglect of the Aborigines

From Christopher Morris, Sydney

Sweeping changes to the way Aborigines are arrested and detained in Australia have been recommended in the preliminary report of a Royal Commission inquiry into Aboriginal deaths in police custody.

Among the changes to the law recommended by the Commission, headed by Mr Justice Muirhead, are a review of recruitment procedures and the dismissal of racist police and prison officers, and an end to solitary confinement of Aboriginal prisoners. There is also a call for the abolition of drunkenness as a criminal offence and for prison to be used only as a last resort.

The interim report yesterday was rushed through because of the urgent need to focus national attention on what Mr Muirhead described as "the result of ignorance and appalling neglect".

The chief commissioner's recommendations are among 56 put forward in his report at the end of the first year of the inquiry in which another 15 Aborigines have died — often in mysterious circumstances — after being arrested.

The Royal Commission is now investigating 108 deaths but the hearings have become bogged down in legal argument and so far Judge Muirhead has heard evidence

in full relating to only six cases. As a result the hearings have had to be extended until the end of 1990 and five new commissioners have been appointed.

Referring to what he called "a national tragedy" Mr Muirhead said in the report: "Our country's reputation demands a vigorous approach and new initiatives." He declared that Australians must know the truth and added that the country's reputation "will suffer internationally if expediency rather than honesty prevails".

The long-awaited report does not recommend charges against anyone involved in the investigation so far but looks at the broader issues of why the deaths in custody have continued to occur and how they can be prevented.

Mr Muirhead said all state Governments should combine to set up a national task force to examine the alcohol problems faced by the Aboriginal people.

Intoxicated Aborigines, he said, should not be taken to police cells but taken instead either to their homes or to "sobering up centres". He also suggests new community programmes to treat drunken Aborigines.

Police and prison officers, he recommended, ought to

receive basic training so they can identify people in distress or at risk of death through injury or suicide.

Many of the Aborigines who have died in police custody have been found hanging in their cells from sheets, blankets or items of clothing after being left alone for hours.

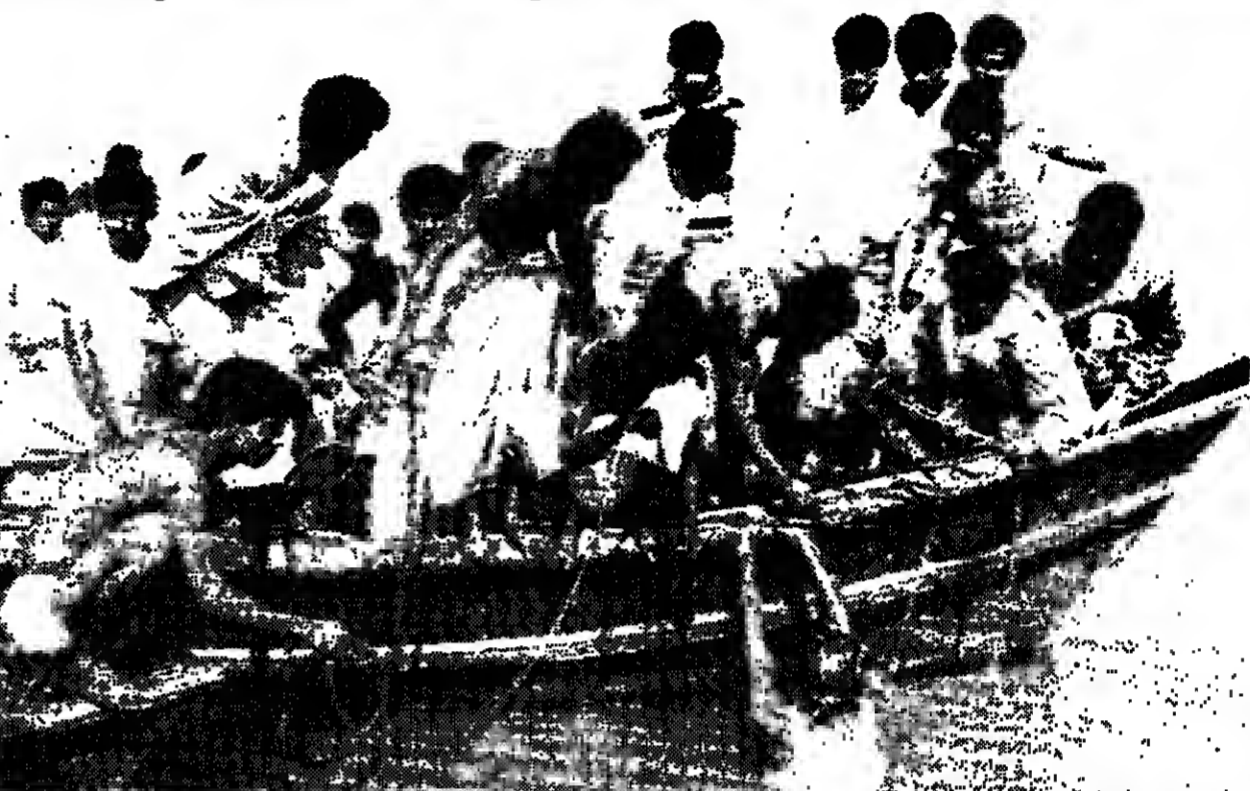
Mr Muirhead recommends that in future Aboriginal detainees should never be subjected to solitary confinement unless they or other detainees are at risk.

First reactions to the report have been mixed. The federal Government has welcomed the recommendations and promised to oversee their speedy implementation.

Speaking in Hobart, Tasmania, the Justice Minister, Mr Michael Tate, who officially released the interim report, said: "The Aboriginal people have some practical steps now which, if implemented by governments, will reduce the possibility of deaths in custody."

However, the Aboriginal activist Mr Michael Mansell claimed the report did not address two critically important questions: "How do we stop the number of Aborigines going into custody?" he asked, "and even if we can't stop that number, how do we protect them... in the cells?"

Ferry survivors join search for bodies



Rescuers holding the safety rope of a diver who has surfaced during a search for victims after a ferry sank in Bangladesh with 250 passengers on board.

The MV Hasail sank at the confluence of the Dhaleswari and Sitalakhya rivers after it collided with a tanker in thick fog on Tuesday (Ahmed Fazl writes).

Grieving survivors joined the scores of volunteers searching for floating bodies five miles south of the river town of Mmshiganj as rescue officials yesterday gave up hope of finding alive any of the more than 200 passengers not

accounted for 48 hours after the disaster.

"Many bodies have been carried downstream by the currents and about a hundred others are trapped inside the sunken boat," Mr Kasen Mannan, the town's civilian administrator, said.

He and the local police chief, Mr Khuda Bakhsh, were trying to identify approximately 20 bodies which have so far been recovered.

Witnesses said about a hundred passengers, mostly on the top deck of the ferry, swam to safety as it collided head-on with the tanker and capsized. "My wife and my three-

year-old daughter lie in the boat," Mr Shahid Ullah, a potato trader aged 32, said. He himself jumped off the deck into the river after the collision.

"We are still waiting for the government salvage ship to arrive," Mr Mannan said as anxious relatives besieged him. The country's only salvage ship was anchored in the southern port of Khulna, about 150 miles away, he added.

Most of the passengers on the boat came from Mmshiganj, 30 miles south of Dhaka. Earlier reports said about 400 people were missing after the double-decker ferry rammed

the tanker on Tuesday morning. Police said many survivors were rescued by villagers who rushed to the scene of the disaster with small canoes. But they said women and children, mostly on the lower deck, were trapped and went down with the boat.

The Ministry of Shipping said that more than 1,000 people had died in ferry disasters in Bangladesh in the past two years.

The Ministry added that most mishaps occurred because of serious overcrowding and attempts to navigate without lights in Bangladesh's winding rivers.

Iran court sentences millionaire to death

Nicosia (Reuter) — An Iranian court yesterday condemned a multi-millionaire to death for corruption and ordered that he and a woman friend be lashed for an illegal sex act.

Ali Mousavi set up a non-interest loan foundation and became a multi-millionaire after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the Iranian News Agency reported.

Mousavi, who headed the private Nabovvat Foundation, was also ordered to pay 1.21 billion rials (£9.9 million) to 17 creditors. The sentence is subject to the approval of the Supreme Judicial Council.

30 killed in Delhi rioting

Delhi (AFP) — Rioting sparked off by the murder of a state MP continued in southern Andhra Pradesh, with the death toll rising to 30.

Thousands of supporters of rival political groups who defied a curfew in 24 towns and cities attacked the homes of state ministers and MPs and set fire to banks, cinemas, government offices and schools and colleges.

Seven die

Hong Kong (AP) — Seven men were executed in Shanghai for offences including murder, attempted rape and robbery immediately after their sentences were announced by officials at a public rally.

Birthday gift

Kathmandu (Reuter) — King Birendra of Nepal marked his 43rd birthday by ordering the release from jail of 177 people, including 30 political prisoners.

Nuclear test

Moscow (Reuter) — The Soviet Union carried out an underground nuclear explosion at its range in central Asia, the third this month.

Floating hotel

Helsinki (Reuter) — A Finnish company plans to use a re-fitted North Sea oil-rig accommodation vessel as a floating hotel off Tallinn, the capital of Soviet Estonia, to help ease the city's shortage of tourist accommodation.

Everest bid

Salt Lake City (AP) — An international team of 14, including Peter Hillary, son of Sir Edmund Hillary, who conquered Mount Everest in 1953, will tackle the peak in the spring.

Farming clash

Mexico City (Reuter) — Six peasants from rival farmers' organizations were killed and eight injured in a clash over a land dispute in the Gulf of Mexico state of Veracruz.

Kidnap victim

Fassano (Reuter) — A businessman aged 64 was kidnaped outside his home near this southern Italian town.

Botha given election warning

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

The Rev Allan Hendrickse, the Coloured (mixed-race) leader of South Africa's Labour Party, is threatening to insist on a scheduled general election in 1990 unless the Government repeals one of the cornerstones of apartheid, the Group Areas Act.

Addressing his party's congress in Bloemfontein on Tuesday night, he claimed that the ruling National Party was concerned about the increasing strength of the far-right Conservative Party and wished to delay an election until 1992. "If they are looking for support in this regard, they will first have to give us a clear indication as to the direction in which they wish to send the country," he said.

Elections for all the cham-

bers of the tricameral Parliament — for whites, Indians and Coloureds — are to be held by the end of March, 1990, and it would require a constitutional amendment supported by the Labour Party to postpone them.

Mr Hendrickse's party, which controls the Coloured chamber, has consistently called for the abolition of the Act, which makes racial segregation of residential areas compulsory.

"The National Party and the white voters will in years to come have to pay a high price for this unholy and un-Christian Act," he said.

The power of Mr Hendrickse's latest ultimatum is, however, suspect. While the Government is clearly con-

cerned by the rise of the extreme right, it is by no means certain that it wishes to delay an election battle.

Results of municipal elections last October indicated that the Conservative Party would have difficulty in increasing its 34 per cent share of the white vote if a general election were held soon, and President Botha could expect to retain a comfortable majority in the white chamber.

Part of the rationale for an early election is that it would give the ruling party a clear five years to pursue its policy of cautious liberal reforms, and end the electioneering atmosphere in which every decision must be judged by its acceptability to the right. The Labour Party voted

overwhelmingly at its congress yesterday to continue participating in the tricameral system of government, despite its shortcomings.

Meanwhile, an attempt to forge a new liberal alliance in opposition to the Government has suffered a setback with the refusal of Dr Willem de Klerk to accept its leadership.

Dr de Klerk, a former newspaper editor, emerged last week as a leading figure in negotiations to merge the Progressive Federal Party with the smaller Independent Party and the National Democratic Movement. He said in a statement that although he agreed with the proposed party's broad intentions, "I am not, and was not, available" for the post of leader.

Serbs trade on a personality cult

A street vendor in Belgrade, right, selling calendars adorned by pictures of Mr Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian Communist Party chief who led millions of Serbs in a protest against ethnic Albanian control of Serbia's Kosovo province.

Mr Milosevic, the subject of a fast-growing personality cult, has gone to extraordinary lengths to prevent pictures of his wife, Mirjana, from appearing in the Serbian magazine *NIN*. Editorial sources there said that the magazine reproduced an illustrated essay by Mr Milosevic's wife, a sociology lecturer (Reuter reports).

When the politician heard about it, *NIN*'s presses were stopped and 12,000 copies of the magazine scrapped.

Magazine sources said Mr Milosevic feels awkward about his own personality cult and believes his political opponents could use publicity building up around his wife to make him a laughing stock.

● Kosovo fears: The Yugoslav leader, Mr Branko Mikulic, told the National Assembly that the situation in the troubled Kosovo region had worsened as a result of massive



demonstrations last month by tens of thousands of Albanians (Dessa Trevisan writes). The protests had heightened the feeling among the Serbs that they are not accorded full

protection by the overwhelming Albanian administration against intimidation by militant Albanian separatists. Since the protests, Serbian delegates have accused some

leading local officials of instigating street demonstrations in order to block Serbian efforts to impose constitutional changes extending Serbia's jurisdiction to the region.

Guerrillas disrupt Bangladesh accord

From Ahmed Fazl Rangamati, Bangladesh

As the flames from the funeral pyre of Shantimoy Dewan, a tribal chieftain, flickered in the winter wind in this hill resort town yesterday, hopes for a quick end to the 17-year jungle war in south-eastern Bangladesh appeared bleak.

Mr Dewan, aged 60, gunned down last week by unidentified assailants in a crowded bazaar, was the vital link between Dhaka and Chakma tribal guerrillas demanding independence for the 11,000 square miles of hills and tropical teak forests.

Security forces blamed the assassination on extreme elements in the "Shanti bahini" (Peace Force) — the underground tribal army.

Despite the optimism of the area's chief military commander, Major-General Abdus Salam, several members of

the National Committee on Tribal Affairs have expressed doubts about a speedy implementation of a peace treaty between government representatives and the guerrillas.

A committee member, who did not want to be named, said: "It is now certain that the treaty will face rough times and may not be put into effect early next year as predicted."

Mr Dewan, a moderate Buddhist Chakma chief, wielded influence over the guerrillas and was instrumental in working out the treaty which would have given limited autonomy in the Chittagong Hill Tracts through the formation of elected hill councils.

Sources said that the treaty, details of which had not been officially disclosed, empowered elected tribal leaders to run the local administration including policing, tax collection and development. But the councils have apparently fallen short

of expectations of the hardliners within the "Parbatia Chaitagram Janashang-hai Samity" (Chittagong Hill Tracts People's Unity Front) who control the fighting cadres dominated by the main Chakma tribe.

The concept of the autonomous councils for the districts of Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban grew out of year-long negotiations between the national committee, moderate Chakma chiefs and tribal guerrillas. Mr Dewan liaised between the Government and the guerrillas.

"The extremists have shown their disapproval of the councils by doing away with Mr Dewan and four others in the past week," said Mr Goutam Dewan, an associate of the murdered chief.

President Ershad, flew to Rangamati town on Monday to show that his Government still backed a limited autonomy plan for the tribal land.



SPECTRUM

Lawyer with ink on his hands

THE TIMES PROFILE

LOUIS BLOM-COOPER

Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, has paid the penalty of being too clever and too catholic in his passions. Had he been a little less bright, and a little more single-minded in his pursuit of legal success, he would undoubtedly have been at least a judge of the Court of Appeal by now, if not a Law Lord. Instead, he has taken on the near-impossible task of rescuing the Press Council from terminal disrespect.

legal establishment. The respect which his ability attracted was tinged with that hint of suspicion which accompanies the omnifarious who does not always perform according to the unwritten rules. He was not a rebel, but he was different. Nevertheless, when he retired from the Bar earlier this month after 35 years, his teeming farewell party was attended by almost all the Law Lords and a good sprinkling of the best of the rest of the higher judiciary. They came out of affection, not to make sure he was really going.



Louis Blom Cooper: if he cannot restore confidence in the Press Council, its days are surely numbered

the A6 murder, the Law Lords, capital punishment (against), and law as literature. Under his chairmanship, the inquiries into the deaths of battered children Jasmine Beckford and Kimberley Carlie were praised for their robust yet compassionate good sense, and some of his conclusions have found their way into the Children Bill now passing through Parliament.

travelled to the Turks and Caicos Islands to head an independent inquiry into corruption in high places. He has sat on innumerable committees and is currently chairman of the Independent Committee for the Supervision of Standards of Telephone Information Services, and of the Mental Health Act Commission.

such an uninteresting and unproductive activity. He does, though, manage to lead a gregariously social and family life in Islington, with most weekends and holidays in Montgomery, Wales, with his second wife, Jane, and their three children (he has another three, grown up, by his first wife).

BIOGRAPHY

- 1926: Born March 27 in Rotterdam.
1944-47: Army service.
Late 1940s: Read law at King's College, London.
1952: Bachelor of Laws (London). Called to the Bar, Middle Temple, Amsterdam.
1954: Doctorate in Jurisprudence, The Guardian.
1957: Legal affairs correspondent of The Guardian.
1966-78: Member of Home Secretary's Advisory Council on the Penal System.
1970: Became Queen's Council.
1970-73: Chairman of the local radio council for BBC Radio London.
1973-84: Became chairman of Howard League for Penal Reform.
1984: Became Vice-President of Howard League.
1985: Chairman of inquiry into the death of Jasmine Beckford.
1987: Chairman of inquiry into the death of Kimberley Carlie.
1988: Named as successor to Sir Salim Gowan as chairman of Press Council. Retired from the Bar in December.

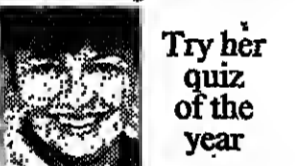
legal correspondent and remained on the newspaper's board of trustees until his new job required him to resign. For 25 years he has been Justinian, the Financial Times's influential and widely read legal columnist. His identity, until recently, had been kept secret and most readers had assumed that the non de plume masked a team of writers. In fact, apart from occasional substitutes when absent, it has been all his own work.

repercussions on the work of the Council. Blom-Cooper is more relaxed about the privacy Bill. He believes that "complaints of Press intrusion into private lives could be handled by the legal process and Press Council in harness". But even that presupposes a Press Council with rather more clout than the present version.

Marcel Berlins

The author is a former Legal Affairs Correspondent of The Times.

artfile



Sarah Jane Checkland

Are you in the picture?

1988 has been a year of excitement, records and controversy in the world of art. Put your memory to the test



Memory joggers: saved for the nation (left); family silver sale (right); unwanted ruby (below left); and star buyer (below right)



ANSWERS: The answers to today's arts quiz will be published in The Times tomorrow

- 1 Can you name two types of...
2 Which group of 20th-century British painters...
3 Which great silver centrepiece was saved for the nation in January?
4 Which important "heritage" items, sold by the Duke of Devonshire, were exported to the Getty Museum in January?
5 Which cathedral has caused a storm of protest by proposing to auction an ancient chart in its possession to raise restoration funds? Can you name the chart?
6 Yorkshireman Bob Atkins claimed in January that the huge ceiling painting in his possession was a masterpiece. Who was the artist and what was the outcome?
7 Which two collections sold by rights have fared badly at auction due to unpleasant associations, and why?
8 Can you name the three major "showbiz" collections sold during the year?
9 Which nobleman left Nato to become chairman of Christie's?
10 From which gallery were 28 paintings stolen in February and are so far not recovered?
11 Which auctioneering company postponed flotation and why? When did the

- 12 Which painting fetched a record of £495,000 at Sotheby's in March despite sustaining a big tear just before the sale?
13 Can you name the artist who painted the Dutch 17th-century banquet still life which fetched \$11.3 million (£5.4 million) in January?
14 Which Old Master painter refuses to improve his record of around £50,000, despite repeated offerings of his works at auction?
15 Which category of painting, pioneered by Sotheby's, suffered a flop at its second sale, with almost 50 per cent unsold?
16 Can you name any three of five Scandinavian artists who have been performing magnificently in the market?
17 Who is the most expensive living artist and what is his current record?
18 Which paintings, consigned by Robert and Johnny Fernor-Hesketh for sale at Christie's, were saved for the nation by the Museums and Galleries Commission?
19 From which Florentine church did the bust of Christ by Giovanni Battista Caccini, which fetched the astonishing record of £225,000 at Sotheby's, come?
20 Which London dealer intervened in the sale at Phillips of three drinking vessels looted from the Netherlands?
21 Which painting did the National Gallery buy as an original, only to be told by the Dortmund Museum that it was they who had the original? How much did the National Gallery pay for it?
22 Which important 20th-century British painter's archive was bought by the Tate?
23 What aspect of its collection did the Getty Museum sell? Why and for how much?
24 What was the name of the "Aussie Earl" who sold the family silver through the Prudential?
25 In October the American multi-millionaire John Harrington claimed he had discovered a painting by a great Venetian artist. Name the painter.
26 Can you name the biggest auction flop during the year, in terms of physical scale?
27 Which institute of higher education is thinking of selling its great collection of Victorian paintings?
28 Which great ruby failed to sell at Sotheby's New York in October?
29 Last month 200 paintings purportedly by a leading Russian artist were branded as fakes. Can you name him?
30 Who finally bought the two paintings attributed to George Stubbs which were the subject of a law case?
31 What is the name of Spain's answer to Tom Keating, who watched as 216 of his works sold at Bonhams in November?
32 Which trade union leader paid £17 last month for a plate commemorating his namesake? Who is his namesake?
33 What did the diocese of Peterborough sell to raise funds?
34 What was it that actress Barbara Streisand paid a record price of £196,000 for this month?
35 Which category of work by Picasso was a flop at auction in October?
36 What is the world record for a single British stamp? Can you name the stamp?

Sanderson JANUARY SALE. TUESDAY 3RD JANUARY 9.30AM UNTIL SATURDAY 28TH JANUARY 5.30PM. SAVE UP TO 50% ON SANDERSON FABRICS, BEDLINEN AND WALL PAPERS. DISCONTINUED DESIGNS, SLIGHT SECONDS! SAVE UP TO 50% ON UPHOLSTERY AND CABINET FURNITURE. UP TO 15% DISCOUNT ON SELECTED UPHOLSTERY AND FURNITURE ITEMS ORDERED DURING THE SALE PERIOD. SPECIAL PROMOTION ON SOFA-BEDS PLUS LARGE REDUCTIONS ON ACCESSORIES, LIGHTING, AND PREVIOUS ROOMSET ITEMS. Sanderson, 52 Berners Street, London W1.

If conservationists want to stop a farmer destroying a section of medieval hedge, one of the oldest components in the British landscape, they can, at present, appeal to nothing higher than the man's better nature. There is not a word in the various layers of nature legislation that says anything about protecting one of the most distinctive and evocative features of rural Britain.

Halting the bulldozers

Next year could see European laws to protect the landscape from developers. British hedge could lie in the designation of certain old examples containing the requisite number of indicator species. But even if the European ministers do accept that the EEC has a role in wider nature conservation, it could still require up to three years for the directive to be negotiated into a form acceptable to most states.

initiative. It was largely drafted by a senior EEC official and former British MEP, Stanley Johnson, and endorsed by the outgoing Environment Commissioner and former British MP, Stanley Clinton Davis. The EEC's one previous excursion into nature protection was the Birds Directive, ratified by the UK in 1979, which called on member states to designate areas of European-wide importance for birds and to safeguard certain species.

Gareth Huw Davies



## HEALTH

## The body politic

David Mellor has resolved to get fitter in 1989. Victoria McKee checked up

**B**acon and eggs, Christmas cake with home-made marzipan icing, and the best Belgian chocolates: these are the admitted weaknesses of the Minister of State at the Department of Health.

David Mellor is an unrepentant worshipping at what he flippantly calls "the temples of gastronomy" and rarely graces the family table in France.

He smokes the occasional cigarette, "only after dinner, to be sociable", which he rationalises as "probably no worse than walking down Oxford Street and breathing deeply in the rush hour" and tries to limit himself to half a bottle of wine a day, or its equivalent.

As for exercise, well, like most people, he says, he does not do as much as he would like. In fact, he does none at all, except for taking Sunday afternoon strolls with his children, Anthony, aged eight, and Frederick, four. And he observes that "as parents we always start off with great ambitions that our kids are going to be crunching on carrots and eating nut cutlets. But they end up with the same rubbish as everyone else's."

Mellor would probably be the first to acknowledge an affinity with the central character in the new Health Education Authority heart disease commercial — slumping in front of the television, cigarette in one hand, drink in another, stuffing his face with festive leftovers — than with the absent, abstemious, Edwina Currie (although he did start opting for apples from the bowl she kept on her desk, in lieu of his customary Mars Bars, and is "jolly sad" about her going, because "she did so much for prevention").

That said, Mellor will be starting a new fitness regimen in a

Currie-like blaze of publicity: at 7.45am next Tuesday on TV-am. Lizzie Webb, the breakfast television station's exercise expert, who is fronting its month-long national fitness campaign, has cajoled him into appearing live with her on screen to do the "Daily Dozen" exercises she has devised for him to do in his office.

Mellor stresses that he is not setting himself up as a role model. "I think politicians generally are not very good role models and I have not yet reached the stage of composure where I would want anyone to regard me in that light." Still, he has become painfully conscious that his 40th birthday is fast approaching with his soft life reflected harshly in his softening centre. "I don't carry a lot of weight anywhere other than a little bit on the stomach, but I'm getting quite irritated about that."

"I watch my weight — I have a seven-pound limit. I like to keep between 12 and 12 and a half stone, which, for my height, six foot, is about right. But I'm very conscious that I went into Christmas this year towards the upper end of that and that I've probably gained a pound or two over the holiday."

"My 40th birthday is on March 12, and I'm determined to turn the corner without having to think that, if I was forced to run somewhere, I'd have a coronary before turning the corner."

He has regular check-ups and is grateful to have avoided any serious illness with the exception of a slipped disc. Fortunately it slipped back into place but left a

legacy of nervousness (about possible recurrence) and restricted movement (on the physiotherapist's advice) — one good excuse for his sedentary lifestyle.

Another is simply finding the time for exercise in a schedule that can stretch from 7am until after midnight, with Saturdays partly taken up with constituency work and Sundays reading documents.

"My wife Judith does some sort of gymnastics stuff, has an exercise tape and hangs away to that, and goes to the local health club. And I have friends who lead stressful lives and make a great thing about playing sport, like Jeffrey Archer, who's always aggressively and bouncily fit and manages to fit in several games of squash a week. But I just haven't got myself into that. It's hard to think of just another couple of hours when you absolutely have to be somewhere."

"Fortunately I never feel much physical awareness of stress, but I'm mentally aware of it and have got a few tricks that get me out of thinking about things: I can go watch my local football team, Chelsea, and completely forget about anything but the game."

His wife treats his New Year's resolution to trim down and tone up before March with wry amusement and understandable scepticism. "He likes big meals and good restaurants," she says. "I never feed him and he seldom eats in the House of Commons. I can't see him ever giving up his occasional after-dinner cigarette." But she concedes she may be underestimating the powerful

drive of vanity in a man about to turn 40, and Mellor believes that publicly stating his aim might provide the impetus which was previously lacking.

He points out, somewhat reproachfully, that he is not quite beyond salvation. He does walk a fair bit, partly because he has never learnt to drive, and usually starts his day with Greek sheep's yoghurt and honey and freshly squeezed orange juice, rather than the fry-up he craves.

"But if you have a fried breakfast every now and then, the hell with it! Doing the drug brief at the Home Office I came strongly to believe in the theory of the addictive personality and I flatter myself that I'm not one. I also flatter myself that I could be a hell of a lot worse if I didn't exercise some discipline already."

To learn his "Daily Dozen" exercises, Mellor gamely pushed back the Regency-striped sofa in his office, removed his jacket and lay on the floor beside his leather-topped, mahogany desk, admiring the view of his ornately succeeded ceiling. In turn, he asked Lizzie Webb to produce a video of the exercises for him to play on his office television. "I need to feel compelled to do them each day, and I need to know that I'm doing them correctly," he says.

Unfortunately, his first, somewhat over-vigorous, session left him too worried about the resulting twinges in his back to follow the programme over the holidays as he intended. But he is undeterred in his determination to offer a heartening example to millions of heavy-eyed penitents on the morning after the morning after New Year's Day: confident, at least, that his boss will be snoring away at such an early hour.



Bend and stretch: David Mellor practising in his office for his fitness drive. Left, he gets a novel view of the ceiling and, above, he tentatively reaches for the sky under the eye of TV-am's Lizzie Webb, before moving on to some leg and waist exercises

## An infection on the wing

The importance of bird-borne infections has been highlighted recently by the serious attack of pneumonia which has kept the Labour MP Harriet Harman away from the Commons for some weeks. It has been due to psittacosis, parrot fever, which is traditionally thought to be caught from parrots and budgerigars but can also be spread by other birds, including canaries, pigeons and even the backyard hen. Harman keeps no birds, so it is just possible that she has acquired it by direct human droplet infection, the badly directed cough or sneeze, which occasionally occurs; however this is thought to be such a rare method of transmission that there will be no need for her fellow members to shun her in the lobby. As with many infectious, ranging from the common cold to legionnaires disease, it starts after a two to three week incubation period with general malaise — doctors' jargon for flu-like symptoms. If left unchecked it soon progresses to pneumonia. Once the diagnosis is established the treatment is straightforward, provided that the correct antibiotic is given in an appropriate dose (at least double the standard dose for not less than 14 days), as psittacosis is due to one of the chlamydia group of organisms where

## MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford



Sick as a parrot: Harriet Harman, MP. Untreated pneumonia psittacosis can have up to a 30 per cent mortality. Psittacosis is not the only disease which may threaten the seafarer who returns with a parrot on his shoulder, or

even the cage bird fancier with a few budgies in his back yard. A Dutch doctor, Dr Peter Holst, has shown that bird keepers have an increased chance of developing cancer of the lung irrespective of other risk factors. The research he has done demonstrates that the bird lovers are twice as likely to develop cancer of the lung as people in an otherwise similarly matched control group. Most of his patients (and therefore most of the controls) were smokers, so it is possible that the dust from feathers and from dried droppings may not only act as an allergen, but also adversely affect local levels of immunity within the lung, thereby acting as a co-factor in the production of the cancer. Being both a smoker and a bird-keeper is probably more dangerous than just being a smoker.

Although cancer of the lung occurs more commonly in those countries where bird-keeping is popular, such as the Netherlands, Britain or Belgium, British statisticians have criticized Dr Holst's work for being carried out with too small numbers and for failing to make adequate allowances for class differences (which affect the incidence of cancer) between bird fanciers and the rest of the population.

## Mother's milk



Although this week's new mothers may have exchanged the lowly cot for a bed in a highly sophisticated ward, they still have to contend with the same physical and mental problems which have accompanied childbirth down the ages and must therefore have afflicted Mary nearly 2,000 years ago. Careful ante-natal care, improved monitoring equipment, higher standards of obstetrics and pharmaceutical advances have ensured that pregnancy, delivery and the post-natal period have become progressively safer for mother and child; even so, the first week after the birth is a time of close medical supervision and inevitably frequent recourse to the drugs cupboard.

Dr Peter Rubin, writing in *Medicine International*, has reviewed the effects of drugs taken by the breast-feeding mother on her baby. Lactating mothers can be reassured; although all drugs pass to a greater or lesser extent into the milk, the degree depending on how fat-soluble the compound is, the duration of the drug which occurs as it spreads throughout the maternal body, coupled with the fact that the baby only takes very small amounts of milk at any one feed, means that the dose he or she receives is usually unimportant.

Mothers who may need antibiotics for infection can happily have penicillins, ery-

thromycin or cephalosporins but should avoid tetracyclines, chloramphenicol or sulphonamides. If agitated they are allowed chlorpromazine but should renounce the oft-prescribed and much loved Valium, Librium and the other benzodiazepines, including those used as sleeping pills, which can cause weight loss and severe lethargy in the baby; likewise phenobarbitone will induce extreme sleepiness. The depressed new mother can safely take the tricyclic antidepressants such as Tryptazol, but, even if she has a manic depressive personality, she must avoid lithium, which could cause fatal cardiovascular collapse in her breast-fed baby. Mild pain can be dealt with by using paracetamol, but the night sister's old command of "give her a couple of aspirin" must now be abandoned for fear of causing Reye's syndrome in the child.

While recovering from her delivery, and while adjusting to maternity, the breast-feeding mother can therefore be treated without fear of harming her child for pain, infection, agitation and depression, the four most common complications of the first few weeks of post-natal life. If she decides that she does not want to breast-feed, the milk can now be dried up by using bromocriptine and without the use of heavy doses of stilboestrol, which in the past increased the chance of developing a clot in the lung. When she has recovered, and is inclined to remember that she is a wife as well as a

mother, she can now take the low oestrogen and progestone pill with safety for herself and without ill-effect to the child. The higher dose pill should be avoided.

## Smart-sighted



The portrait of Humphrey Brooke which illustrated the obituary in *The Times* (December 26) emphasized both his spectacles and the obvious intensity of his intelligence. Brooke, a frequent correspondent to *Medical Briefing* on the manic depressive psychosis, took a first at Oxford, and later became secretary to the Royal Academy. Is it chance that so many intelligent people are short-sighted (myopic) or is there a connection? Sociologists and physiologists argue as to whether short-sighted children become intelligent adults because, as they are less able at physical pursuits, they read more and become better educated; or whether the short sight is an indirect result of the intelligence, possibly because the intelligent child is naturally attracted to books and spends an excessive amount of time reading fine print, thereby altering the shape of the eyeball and inducing myopia.

A huge study comparing the IQ and the educational attainments of nearly 6,000 short-sighted Danish army recruits with 10,000 who were normally sighted has recently been published in *The Lancet* and confirms the relationship

between IQ and short sight. It has also shown an equally close association between educational attainment and short sight. Not for nothing is the school swot always portrayed by Frank Richards wearing spectacles.

The study, by doctors from Copenhagen University, also demonstrated that the degree of short sight, once it has become well established (up to -2 dioptres), ceases to bear an exact relationship to IQ or educational level.

The authors argue that if reading is the only means of provoking myopia, there should be a closer relationship between educational attainment and short sight than between short sight and intelligence, whereas their research does in fact show that both are equally influenced by myopia. They suggest that the intelligent child has a greater natural curiosity in early infancy and expresses it by examining anything which is close to the eye with far greater enthusiasm and persistence than the less bright child exhibits. A bright baby's interest in the plastic bunnies stretched across the pram may therefore be as important in inducing myopia as the later pleasure in text books.

Parents should not try to inhibit their children's intellectual enthusiasm and hazard their later development in the hope that it will spare their eyesight, for heredity probably plays an overwhelming part in myopia, and may entirely account for its degree of severity beyond the -2 dioptre stage.

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# TIMES DIARY

ALAN COREN

Three days on, and despite the elegantly couched promises in which it was wrapped, my dancing cane still refuses to follow me around room in big mystery. It does not dance where I go. It does not astound all who look on it.

All who look on it say, "Why are you pulling that stick round on a string?"

I have a mind to take it back to Taiwan and bang it at the proprietor of Mr Chu's Quality Magic. Though not perhaps a household word where international jurists foregather, I am nevertheless pretty certain that you cannot accept folding money for items which, contrary to undertakings on lid, do not dance where you go. Especially when you have spent most of Christmas morning sitting cross-legged in a nest of wrapping paper attempting to assemble something only marginally less fragmented than the Portland Vase, so that, when you try to get up again, it takes some considerable time to discover that your dancing cane will not follow you around room in big mystery, because you cannot get round room yourself, except on all fours, thanks to big mystery of no joints working.

I cannot get the egg out of the egg bag either. It should be simple, according to Mr Chu's lucid assurances: *Take bag, take egg, put egg in bag, turn bag inside out, egg has vanished! Ask friends: Where is egg?*

I do not know what Mr Chu's friends answer at this point; it may be that either gullibility or social discretion is different Out East. Mr Chu's friends could well, when asked, be either astounded by big mystery or generously affecting same. I know only that my friends immediately answer: *Egg in bag, lo, can see egg-shaped hump at bottom of bag!*

This tends to pre-empt Part Two of Mr Chu's instructions. *Now you produce egg with flourish! Worse, in my case, now you not find egg in bag. Now you only person present unable to answer: Where is egg? Egg there somewhere, can see egg dangling, can feel egg, but cannot get egg out with flourish or anything else. All who look on it astounded you not able to get egg out. Put egg-bag in pocket. Egg now follow you around room in big mystery.*

By Boxing Day, who could not begin to suspect ulterior motives in those of my family who had persuaded Santa to lash his reindeer halfway round the world in search of Mr Chu's Giant Magical Chest? Whenever interest in old movies flagged, whenever anyone woke — or sobered — up, their first reaction was to ask me to get my present out and do the Amazing Milk Trick again. The Amazing Milk Trick consists of pouring a pint of milk into one of Mr Chu's tumblers, turning the tumbler upside down, and running off to get a floor-cloth. I have thought about this for some time, and reached the conclusion that this is not a failed trick at all; this is a successful trick designed by Mr Chu to evoke the response — engagingly described in his booklet as *All present laugh loud!* — not forthcoming from the trick to which it refers, should this fail.

The trick is called *Funny Teeth*. The rubric is simple: *Leave room. Insert Funny Teeth. Go back in room and smile. All present laugh loud!*

Perhaps, in Taiwan, they do. In Cricklewood, all present just look at you, especially if you go back in room and choke.

## BARRY FANTONI



'Did I tell you about the time I visited Britain one Christmas? It was closed...'

I may be that the Chinese Nationalist mouth is differently configured from the European, which might also go some way towards explaining my inability to confuse all hearers that a beast is present.

According to Mr Chu, his Wonderful Double Swiss Warbler can imitate any beast, despite the fact that it looks like a corn plaster. *Directions for use: Soak in water until thoroughly blown up, then place on tongue with teeth nearest teeth (own, presumably, not Funny) and finished side of leather upwards, and hiss gently, giving imitation of Beast. Any person following these instructions will guarantee they can surprise all present that a beast is here. Take care not to swallow. Keep away from children.*

The final injunction is the wisest. If there is anything that a magician wishing to pass himself off as a Beast should keep away from, it's children. If he does not, all present cry: "Why is that man spitting all over everywhere, why is his face going purple?"

God knows best what beast Mr Chu's Wonderful Double Swiss Warbler is supposed to sound like. It is, I suppose, just possible that the beast is actually a double swiss warbler, a creature which gives off a sort of strangled gurgle, and that I am doing it absolutely correctly. All I know is that none present cocked an ear and exclaimed, "I say, can anyone see a double swiss warbler?" I swear I heard one just now.

There is only one trick left in the box, this Wednesday afternoon. It is in a round blue tin, the size of a shoe-polish container. On the lid there is the legend: *Big Gas Frigh!* On the bottom of the tin, the instructions read: *Remove lid, there is a candle. Hide candle in safe place and light. Soon comes a smell of leaking gas. All present run about.*

Call me poltron if you will, Mr Chu, but I should cocoa.

Big Bang is ending in a plaintive whimper. The Press headlines are heralding nemesis for the City yuppie. After the crocodile tears have been wiped away, the question will remain how, if at all, the financial revolution of 1986 has strengthened London's relative position as an international market in stocks and shares. This is the true test of Big Bang's success or failure.

At the outset, it must be said that, like so much else in British life, Big Bang and its aftermath included a strong element of theatre. The swaggering supremacy of the integrated securities house ready to throw capital at the markets for as long as it took to win the global war, the 21-year-old trader with flash sports car and matching girlfriend — these were stock characters we knew would come to sticky ends.

But what of reality? Estimates of £500 million losses incurred by securities companies in London since October 1986 are probably not too wide of the mark. If anything, the rate of loss is likely now to be rising as competition intensifies. Survival is always a more effective spur to desperate action than is the mere pursuit of profit.

There seems little reason to amend forecasts of 50,000 job displacements between Big Bang and the end of 1989. Already, the total is probably above 15,000. So far, many of those displaced

have found other employment in the City. Increasingly, as the circle of employers contracts, they will not. Those displaced are not predominantly the yuppies of myth but hard-working, bright young people who were lured into the financial sector in the mid-1980s. Or else they are diligent, long-standing employees.

If what is emerging is a London capital market better equipped to compete with the rest of the world, the sacrifices, financial and human, will not be in vain. In so many traditional British industries severe pruning has produced more competitive structures in recent years.

The criterion of success, however, is not that the City should be more competitive than it would have been if the markets had remained unformed but that it should be more competitive than it might have been had Big Bang been implemented in some other way.

Few would argue that the preservation of the old, under-capitalized, single-capacity re-

gime could have maintained London's position in the world. That position was already eroding rapidly when the London Stock Exchange agreed in 1983 to reform its rule book. Even the current situation is, therefore, better than the total disaster that might have overtaken London by now if no changes had been introduced. Nevertheless, even at the time, the concentration of financial services in one-stop investment supermarkets seemed unconsidered.

It is easy now to be critical of those who constructed these all-purpose securities houses, with no deeper strategic plan than to be big in all markets everywhere, but they were in the grip of fashion. Also, it must be said, the timetable dictated by government allowed little pause for sober reflection.

The most extreme phase of this fashion has now passed. Black Monday — October 19, 1987 — was the critical date. That was when commercial banks, which had supplied much of the extra capital drawn into

the London market ahead of Big Bang, learned that securities business could be as risky, if not more so, than old-fashioned bank lending.

Today, the financial trends which the architects of Big Bang assumed to be inexorable have been halted or reversed. The London securities houses, moreover, have not been helped by British influences in 1988. The gilt-edged market has seen its stock-in-trade, the volume of government securities, shrink. The equity market, meanwhile, has been unable to enjoy the fruits of rising company profits out of fear of what the Chancellor might need to do to those profits to restore his anti-inflation policy to its proper course. 1989 does not look like being any more comfortable.

For the Treasury and the Bank of England, the problem is that of the three legs of the global market. London stands out as the least attractive environment for those engaged in securities business. In New York, it is true, the securities houses occa-

sionally take large hits but the stream of profits from transactions relating to corporate restructuring has provided rich incentives to stay committed. The profits from trading in Tokyo are potentially enormous. Only in London does the chronic over-capacity and relatively low turnover in the market eliminate chances of profitability for securities houses. The danger is that some companies, primarily those not based in Europe, will conclude that they can miss out London when conducting international securities trading.

New York and Tokyo have the advantage of being founded on strongly developed domestic economies, each representing up to 30 per cent of the developed world's GNP. By comparison, the British economy, which supports London, is puny. European economic integration, it is hoped, will give the London market a wider economic base, but there is no guarantee, given the Government's lukewarm attitude to European union, that Britain will play a leading

part in the integration process. International securities houses are busily setting up operations in Paris to take advantage of that market's measured approach to modernization. They may find Paris a more congenial place to do business than London, especially if the eventual market structure in Paris does not force them into losses.

London's assumption that it is a natural centre for securities trading is now being severely tested. While the London market has an age-old reputation for financial expertise, its distinctive rests more on the innovative flair of its practitioners than on trading ability. The Eurobond market prefigured in some respects the domestic markets which have now emerged in London, but even with Eurobonds success depended more often than not on salesmanship rather than trading capacity.

Perhaps this points a way to the future for the remaining securities companies in London. The eventual survivors may well be those who switch the emphasis from wholesale trading for the European time zone to the provision of fee-paying services for the whole world. This would be the final fulfilment of Big Bang's promise.

The author, an independent financial consultant, was formerly a director of Phillips & Drew, the securities group.

## Stephen Lewis points a way out of the Big Bang débâcle

# A new niche for the City

Anthony Parsons

# Year of the global spring

If I had prophesied five years ago the actuality of the world scene at the end of 1988 I would probably have been locked up in a lunatic asylum, so great and unpredictable have the changes been.

It took the Soviet Union the best part of two decades to develop, first under Khrushchev and then Brezhnev, from being a menacing European military superpower into a global superpower projecting its influence across the world, and especially in those regional disputes which followed decolonization of the European empires.

Simultaneously with the emergence of East-West competition in the Third World, the zone of confrontation in central Europe froze. Effective nuclear parity between the United States and the Soviet Union, along with the entrenchment of Nato and the Warsaw Pact, led to the clarification of the diplomatic ground rules between the two sides, as the Hungarians discovered in 1956 and the Czechoslovaks in 1968. The danger of a third world war erupting on the central front out of political miscalculation receded.

By contrast, the threat to world peace became greatest in those areas of the Third World in which both superpowers were simultaneously involved and in which the policies of the regional states, unlike those of the European members of Nato and the Warsaw Pact, were out of control. The Middle East has been the classic case in point. Neither superpower was able to prevent the Arab-Israeli wars of 1956, 1967 and 1973 from breaking out. But, once battle was joined, particularly in 1973, the US and the Soviet Union came close to being sucked into the conflagration which had been ignited by the parties they respectively championed.

By the same token, no one was able to prevent Iran from trying to subvert the Iraqi regime after the Iranian revolution of 1979; nor did the great powers (at the time on the worst terms) dis-

suaide Iraq from reacting by invading Iran in September 1980, thus triggering off an eight-year conflict not only in the Soviet Union's backyard but also in the area containing 60 per cent of the world's known oil reserves.

Meanwhile, the United Nations had failed to fulfil its original function as a forum for great power co-operation in keeping the peace. The Soviet Union came to regard it, except in the direst emergencies, as an arena in which to capture the hearts and minds of the non-aligned majority, while the US, by the early 1980s, perceived it as little more than a quarry for the mining of virulent anti-American propaganda.

In 1988, the world has witnessed an astonishing reversal in this overall picture, largely as a consequence of Mr Gorbachev's decision to reconstruct the stagnant Soviet economy by *Inter alia*, permitting greater political freedom at home and disentangling the Soviet Union from expensive foreign commitments inherited from the Brezhnev era.

In central and eastern Europe, the glacier is beginning to melt and an unfamiliar landscape is emerging. Local nationalism is reviving strongly in most of the territories of the undercolonized Russian empire, and a similar effect is being felt in the eastern European sphere of influence. A small start has been made in the reduction of the nuclear arsenals of the two superpowers and a reduction in conventional armaments may be on the horizon.

After 30 years of freeze, statesmen on both sides are confronting a degree of fluidity which is already challenging the conventional wisdom in which the stasis of the past has been grounded.

Essential dynamic changes are taking place across the spectrum of regional conflicts, demonstrating clearly the correlation between the obduracy of parties to disputes and the level of external support. Seemingly insoluble crises are beginning to

unwind. The Vietnamese are withdrawing from Cambodia, no doubt in the realization that Soviet financial support is no longer a certainty and that Russia is moving towards *rapprochement* with China. The Soviet Union is withdrawing from Afghanistan (another bone of contention with China), an adventure which has cost so much in lives and money, with only the remotest possibility that a communist government will survive in Kabul. In Brezhnev's time that would have been unthinkable.

Another welcome surprise has been the agreement concluded under American mediation for the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola, linked to South

African acceptance of the United Nations plan for Namibian independence. The West has been putting pressure on South Africa for years to decolonize Namibia, but the presence of 50,000 Cuban troops in Angola has formed an impenetrable obstacle. It is reasonable to suppose that the Soviet Union has told the Cubans that it is no longer prepared to foot the bill. In this fresh configuration, all the parties are suddenly showing unexpected flexibility.

The ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war is further evidence of the impact of the new climate in East-West relations. For the first time ever, a Security Council resolution (No 598 of 1987) was formulated jointly by the five

permanent members of the Security Council, adding weight to its authority. Had this framework for peace not been available for both sides to turn to, it is unlikely that the war would have ended, although a peace treaty still looks remote.

Even that most obstinate and dangerous of conflicts, the Arab-Israeli dispute, is changing to a more favourable shape with the Algiers decisions of the Palestine National Council, Yasser Arafat's statement to the United Nations and American acceptance of a dialogue with the PLO. It is widely believed that Soviet pressure on hardline PLO elements has played a part.

On the wider front, the United Nations, which hit rock bottom



at the beginning of the decade, is reviving. In the contexts of Afghanistan, the Iran-Iraq war and Namibia, the US has realized its value as an instrument of mediation and a catalyst for peaceful settlement. Gorbachev has reversed traditional Soviet policy by pledging support for UN peace-keeping and calling for the strengthening of the role of the secretary general, formerly seen in Soviet eyes as little more than a puppet of the Security Council. It is a truism that when the superpowers co-operate the UN works, and vice versa. Today's omens are more favourable than they have been for years.

I am no optimist. I have spent too many years wrestling with the problems mentioned above for that. In all these areas, only the first steps have been taken: there is much rocky country ahead, and in the Palestinian problem there is an immense legacy of emotion, hatred and genuine security concern to be overcome. There are other problems which show no sign of movement. For example, President Mengistu of Ethiopia has yet, so far as I know, to receive the Gorbachev treatment over Eritrea, while the West's timid attempts to persuade President Botha to abandon apartheid in South Africa have yet to make headway.

However, it can be said that the danger of another superpower confrontation suddenly blowing up over a regional conflict has greatly diminished. This is very important. Some politicians are already talking as though the cold war was over. This is obviously premature. Anything could happen as the eastern European glacier melts.

De Toqueville got it right: "Only consummate statescraft can enable a king to save his throne after a long spell of oppressive rule he sets out to improve the lot of his subjects."

© Times Newspapers, 1988  
Sir Anthony Parsons was British ambassador to Iran, 1974-79, and permanent representative at the United Nations, 1979-82.

## Commentary • ADRIAN WOOLDRIDGE

# Choosing the fairest test

A decade ago it seemed as if secondary schools had been consigned to the dustbin of history. The grammar schools were rapidly disappearing, sneered at by the *Dien-pensant*, hounded by the Labour Party and ignored by the Tory establishment.

Those who pointed out that grammar schools had provided unique opportunities for able working-class children, who argued that comprehensives in middle-class areas would be rather different from those in working-class areas, or who wondered why egalitarians so often sent their own children to independent schools were dismissed as decrepit educational Pöwelles.

In the last few years the situation has changed dramatically: the much-trumpeted victory of the comprehensive lobby now seems little more than a temporary advantage. The 1988 Education Act has established a framework for the re-introduction of selection, and the New Right is dictating the terms of the educational debate.

For once, popular opinion is in sympathy with the radical agenda. A recent survey, *British Social Attitudes*, revealed that 60 per cent of the population supported the return of grammar schools. Although the Act does not bring back the selective system, it will introduce a much-needed element of competition into the state sector. Local education authority monopolies will be broken up, forcing suppliers of educational services to compete for customers.

The transfer of power from the

authorities to individual schools under the Act means that, for the first time, heads and school governors will manage their own financial affairs. Schools will be financed according to the number of pupils on their rolls: the more pupils the more cash. They will have a self-evident incentive to perform well and attract pupils. At the same time, open enrolment will free parents to move their children from bad schools to good.

More radically, schools are to be encouraged to opt out of local authority control and become state-funded (grant-maintained) independent schools; parents are to sidestep the educational establishment and regain control over their children's education. Competition will be further increased by the foundation of city technology colleges, funded partly by the Government and partly by industry.

The most prominent feature of the educational system over the next year or so will be competition between schools for pupils. But in the longer term this will be matched by equally vigorous competition between pupils for schools. Some local authority schools will perform much better than others, and will attract large numbers of applicants. Despite the incentive to raise their income by increasing their enrolment, they will be forced to be selective: good schools cannot remain good schools if they are filled to overflowing.

Grant-maintained schools, which may well become hugely popular, will be allowed to recruit their pupils from outside

their local catchment area — that is, to select them on the basis of their intellectual ability rather than their place of residence. And if city technology colleges are as successful as their prototypes, the "magnet" schools in the United States, they will be vastly over-subscribed.

All this will make the widespread re-introduction of some sort of selection unavoidable. The main problem for successful schools will not be whether to select but how to. Schools will rightly differ in their choice of methods: the main point of recent reform is to encourage competition and variety. But most headmasters will instinctively opt for a combination of three well-established methods: teacher reports, interviews, and attainment tests.

There is much to recommend all three methods. Teachers' reports record opinions formed by trained adults over a number of years. Interviews allow teachers and governors to form vivid personal impressions of their potential pupils and their parents — and give them some idea of their commitment to advanced education. Attainment tests provide solid evidence of children's levels of knowledge, and therefore of their ability to tackle the secondary school syllabus.

But these standard methods of selection all share an important disadvantage: they are biased towards the well-off. Teachers' reports favour children who cause little trouble in class — notably girls. Interviews favour self-confident children and affluent parents: polish and poise

are often mistaken for real ability. Aptitude tests reward previous training rather than intellectual promise. Talented children from poor homes may well do badly in these tests — teachers will describe them as *difficult*, interviews will make them ill at ease, examinations will reveal their poor preparation — while well-behaved children from cultured homes may sail through, and then turn out to be dunces.

Traditional methods of selection certainly have their uses, but to ensure that no talented child is overlooked they need to be supplemented by a simple but highly accurate device: the intelligence test.

IQ tests are more accurate than any other method of selection. They measure aptitude rather than achievement — capacity to profit from future instruction rather than previous educational experience — and they predict success in a wide range of mental tasks. Because they are impersonal and objective, they do not discriminate for or against children on the grounds of sex, race or class. Because they are less culture-bound than other examinations they "read through" the veneer of social class background, revealing talent in children from uncultured families and exposing weakness in the children of educated parents.

Headteachers who are concerned to give all children a fair chance of winning a place in over-subscribed schools cannot afford to ignore IQ tests. The author is a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

## DEC 29 ON THIS DAY 1904

In the present era of complete sexual equality in education, the attitude of our older universities to women early this century seems hard to credit.

## UNIVERSITY DEGREES FOR WOMEN

To the Editor of The Times

Sir — Your readers may have noticed in your University news that on December 20 Trinity College, Dublin, conferred the degree of MA on 20 women, and that of BA on 19 of the same sex. These ladies were not alumni of the college, but were students of women's colleges at Oxford or Cambridge. They had there passed University examinations which would have entitled them to degrees had they been men, but could not graduate because both Oxford and Cambridge, while giving women the advantage of University teaching, examination, and place in the class lists, refuse to recognize their training by a degree. Trinity College, Dublin, has generously and wisely determined to remove its restrictions on the graduation of women students taking its own academic course, and will until 1907 admit to *ad eundem* degrees the qualified Oxford and Cambridge women students now left out in the cold. How prized these distinctions are, particularly by those who are professional teachers and to whom academic rank is of more than sentimental value is shown by the eagerness with which English women have accepted the Dublin offer.

The Clothworkers' Company have for many years promoted the higher education of women at

the older Universities by granting scholarships at Girton, Newnham, and Somerville, and have much regretted that their scholars after creditable and sometimes brilliant University work should quit these colleges without the titular academic stamp so much desired by the students. The company have therefore resolved to pay the fees of their former Oxford and Cambridge scholars who may take the *ad eundem* degree of BA at Dublin, and they do so with the desire of emphasizing their sense of present unfairness to women students.

The Clothworkers have done their share in aiding many forms of education, and the wide range of their activities and the practical labour which they have as business men expended in the study of administrative methods give their opinion some weight in this matter. It is certain that the barriers will some time be removed; the difficulty lies in determining the form which the change shall take and the share to be allowed to women in University councils.

In the interests of women's education, a very important consideration to the country at the present time, these questions ought to be solved by Oxford and Cambridge without delay. While human nature remains what it is, the prospect of a definite academic status and the right to wear distinctive academic dress will tend to attract women from Oxford and Cambridge to other domains, all of which now accept women as graduates.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.  
WILLIAM BOUSFIELD,  
Master of the Clothworkers' Company and Chairman of the Girls' Public Day Schools Company,  
Clothworkers' Hall, Dec 23.





1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

## BACK TO THE JURY

No one can doubt that the Guildford case has become a legal nightmare, as difficult a tangle as any Home Secretary has ever had to unravel. Mr Hurd is now expected to announce a decision early in the new year.

The continued detention of the four prisoners convicted in 1975 of the Guildford IRA bombings is an injustice, not because they are certainly innocent but because they have not had a fair and proper trial before a jury in possession of all the available evidence. This is the heart of the argument Lords Devlin and Scarman delivered in *The Times* last month.

When the case was last reviewed by the Court of Appeal, they claim, the judges usurped the function of a jury by making determinations of fact, relying on a stretched interpretation of a section of the 1968 Criminal Appeal Act as their basis in law. And that interpretation, if taken as a precedent, is, they believe, a fundamental threat to the system of trial by jury.

Mr Hurd has been asked, by distinguished delegations, including one archbishop, two former Home Secretaries and the two Lords themselves, to refer the case back to the Court of Appeal. But that by itself would not necessarily put right the injustice, for the court could again set itself to decide what a jury might have thought, according to the same flawed interpretation of the 1968 Act, instead of ordering a retrial.

Even a retrial of the Guildford Four would still be in isolation from the related Maguire "bomb factory" cases. Though they essentially all form part of the same extended picture, legally they are separate. But it cannot possibly be believed that the Maguire group (no longer in prison) were guilty if the Guildford Four were innocent.

The Guildford cases rest wholly upon uncorroborated confessions by the accused, later withdrawn. Evidence has recently become public that one of them, Richardson, had been given a drug injection shortly before she confessed. This evidence has not been considered by a jury, and should be; it could well be enough to persuade a jury that her confession, at least, was unreliable. And that throws further doubt on the other confessions too.

Responsibility for the Guildford bombings was subsequently claimed by an admitted IRA gang, who claimed when they too were arrested that they knew nothing of the Guildford Four; this evidence has also not been considered by a

jury, and also ought to be. The fact that the Court of Appeal thought it would not have persuaded the jury to change its mind should be neither here nor there, as Lords Scarman and Devlin have pointed out. A jury might — or might not — uphold the Court of Appeal's view that they were all in it together — the IRA unit and the Guildford Four hangers-on. The point is that no jury has had a chance to consider either the Court of Appeal's version of the Guildford bombings, or that presented by the IRA gang. Neither was available at the original trial.

The Maguire cases rest almost wholly upon scientific evidence, only thinly corroborated by ambiguous further evidence against some of them. The link between the two is that the police raided the Maguire household only on the basis of a tip-off from one of the Guildford Four after his arrest. The source of the tip-off was not known to the jury in the latter case, and it cannot in any circumstances qualify as evidence, either for or against the accused. But it is why no reasonable person could at the same time believe in the Maguire's guilt and the Guildford Four's innocence. If none of the Guildford defendants had anything to do with the bombings, it is extremely unlikely that they could have known where the bombs came from. And so, logically, there had to be something wrong with the scientific evidence against the Maguire group. Indeed there are forensic experts who have raised doubts precisely to that effect.

So what is the Home Secretary to do? He can decline to do anything at all. That would fly in the face of fresh facts and be plainly unjust. Secondly, he has the right to recommend the use of the royal prerogative, a procedure whose justification is precisely that it can deal with the sort of rare combination of circumstances that have arisen here. But this solution should only be pursued if the Home Secretary feels that the case for mercy, on the new evidence, is overwhelming, sufficiently so to justify overriding normal process.

Lastly, he can return the case to the Court of Appeal in the hope that new facts would be tried by a new jury. Besides being the most fair and logical outcome, it would go to the heart of the broad issue raised by Lords Devlin and Scarman. A Home Secretary who wanted to see a full retrial before a jury could not guarantee that the court would take his hint. But it would be in the interests of justice that they should.

## MESSAGE OF THE MARSEILLAISE

Nothing more emphatically underlines the momentous character of the French Revolution than the quarrels it can still generate. Its heroisms and brutalities, its real claims to revolutionary status, and even its duration remain matters of dispute.

Did the popular revolts of 1789, and the famous storming of the Bastille, usher in the political culture of the modern democratic state, a model for all the world? Or had the administrative and institutional transformations begun, as Alexis de Tocqueville noted, under the *ancien régime*?

Can we celebrate the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen (to give the celebrated document of August 1789 its full title) and dismiss the Terror of 1793, Year I, the decisive break with the past, as an aberration? Or must it be seen from its elitist beginnings to its Jacobin bloodlettings as an integral whole?

For Marxists, it was a bourgeois affair, a clash between landowners and capitalists important principally as starting the long march, through the uprisings of 1848 in Europe and the first "Communist" revolt, the Paris Commune of 1871, to the triumph of the dictatorship of the proletariat in 1917. In a mirror image of this reasoning, some modern historians have seen in it "the first of the great socialist and totalitarian national laundries which have whitened the twentieth century", precursor of Nazism and Stalinism.

These arguments and others, still rehearsed with passion in contemporary France as it prepares to celebrate the Revolution's bicentenary, make the politicians' choice of just what to celebrate a question of considerable delicacy.

There is a sense in which the last 200 years of French political life have been a continuing political experiment, an attempt to tame and absorb the history of its Revolution. A hundred years ago, after a century of military dictatorships, two emperors and three monarchs, France effectively accepted that the Revolution was over. With the defeat of the monarchists and the establishment of the Third Republic, this was true, in the sense that the form of French democracy had finally been established. But the Revolution remained unfinished business: the uncompromising assertion of the Declaration that "Men are born and remain free and equal in rights" had yet to be translated into institutions with which the French could feel comfortable.

France was, and remains, a fascinating amalgam of a highly-stratified and yet egalitarian society. It is open to all the talents: the Ecole Nationale d'Administration, its premier forcing house for the top echelons, is no upper-class preserve, and the best lycées, financed by the State, are its Etons. But however mer-

itocratic, the "orders" find a place in society so stable as to seem, to a British eye, almost Elizabethan.

It retains many of the hallmarks of a centralized, dirigiste State, bequeathed in the economic field by Colbert, who created from the top, as minister to Louis XIV, a national industrial policy, and descending in the political arena from the Roi Soleil, the revolutionary dictatorship and Napoleon. Yet it defines itself, as a nation, very much in the terms of the stubborn individualism of a citizenry equal in rights.

Bastille Day 1989 will in fact be dominated by the State in its majesty, as France plays host to the Western summit. For the year, the Government has selected themes — the declaration of the rights of man, and "Europe" — which will, it hopes, generate the least dissent. The first theme is an obvious choice: if only partially what the Revolution was about, the declaration is what most people would prefer to celebrate.

Even the theme of "Europe" may address the central issues squarely. The integration of the European market in 1992 could accomplish the part of the Revolution which was, in some eyes, never begun, dictating a relaxation of the State's tightly centralized controls over the levers of economic and financial management.

Politically, too, there is a perceptible loosening of the reins of the State. It is no small revolution to hear a socialist prime minister talking, as has M. Michel Rocard, about less government. Simultaneously, and not fortuitously, there are signs of a softening of the polarization between left and right which could mark the beginning of the end of the Revolution.

The prominence in current politics of centrists, like President Mitterand himself, M. Rocard, and M. Raymond Barre, and the still-hesitant development of the politics of *ouverture*, suggest the beginnings of a non-confrontational balance, and the popularity, with the French themselves, of the politics of *cohabitation* suggests a readiness to put ancient quarrels behind them.

But the bicentenary remains, as this week's articles in *The Times* point out, a commemoration of a political cataclysm which has reverberated far beyond the confines of national politics. Time has now separated the ideas and symbols from the squalid reality of the violence which followed the storming of the Bastille. The American Revolution, with its own declaration of rights, may have predated the French. But Liberty at the barricades, leading the people, remains in the imagination of the world a symbol of the assertion of individual liberty which speaks a message of triumph to which the world still listens.

## Poverty in Africa

From Sir Bryan Thwaites  
Sir, Lord Vernon asserts (November 29) that the "problem of unrestricted population growth... is the root cause of the environmental crisis". This certainly represents a currently fashionable view of the world ecology. I suggest, however, that it is too simple-minded by half.

First, it is in the nature of creation that populations, in the medium term, adjust themselves to conditions — and often in unpredictable and indeterminate ways. The variation of the birth-rate in England over the last 200

years is a splendid example of this truth.

Second, there is no such thing as the environmental crisis; rather, there is a whole host of environmental problems whose inter-connections range from the very strong to the very weak. Again, by the nature of things there is neither a single cause nor a single solution to these.

Africa (which was Lord Vernon's first concern) exemplifies this: overall, it has a low density of population — about half that of Europe — and yet is enormously rich in natural resources and, given the will and the organis-

ation, could easily feed the whole world.

That population growth is the root cause of the environmental crisis is fast becoming a myth which is dangerous in two ways. First, it implies the falsity that, if only we could subdivide the population, then all would be well. Second, it totally ignores the overriding effects of political instability, totalitarian regimes, corruption, and inadequate physical, social and economic infra-structures.

Yours faithfully,  
BRYAN THWAITES,  
Millthorpe,  
Winchester, Hampshire.

## Preventing a US/EEC trade war

From the Director of the National Office of Animal Health Ltd  
Sir, Your excellent leader (December 27) provides a valuable summary of the events leading up to the imminent US/EEC trade war. However, by calling for more scientific evidence it overlooks the surfeit which already exists.

You remind us that the Commission's own committee of experts, chaired by Professor Cumming, was summarily disbanded only a few weeks before its final report was due in autumn, 1985.

That committee continued to work in private and presented its findings at the 1987 British Veterinary Association congress, and published in the *Veterinary Record*. Quite separately the Joint Experts Committee on Food Additives (Jefca) of the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization published their own findings in 1987. Both groups of eminent independent scientists gave the five potent hormones a "clean bill of health".

Perhaps of greater significance, in view of the current deadlock, is the fact that in the early 1980s, and before the European Commission introduced its ban, the five hormones were separately approved for use in beef production by the

medicine licensing authorities of all the major livestock producing countries in the developed world — including the USA, the UK and a number of other EEC member states. Everywhere, in fact, where the medicine licensing process is protected from the influence of political expediency.

The EEC ban contradicts this wealth of evidence and, at least as far as the US is concerned, demands that sovereign states outside the EEC act unconstitutionally by banning the use of properly licensed products.

What is now needed to break this deadlock is for the Commission to publish a positive list of hormones acceptable for producing meat to be sold in the EEC. Longer term, there is a need to insulate the objective, science-based and legally-constituted medicine licensing process in the EEC from the facts and fancies of European consumer politics. What is done the threat of further trade wars will hang over the Community's trade with the outside world.

Yours faithfully,  
ROGER COOK, Director,  
National Office of Animal Health Ltd,  
3 Crossfield Chambers,  
Gladbeck Way,  
Enfield, Middlesex,  
December 28.

## Farm subsidies

From Mr Aidan Harrison  
Sir, As a farmer I follow your reports and leading articles on the GATT talks and calls for "free trade" in agricultural products with concern. Nobody, least of all farmers, likes subsidies; but surely they have only been made necessary by two major in-built obstacles to free, fair trade.

First is the fact that farmers seem to be doomed to buying their inputs — seeds, tractors, fertilisers, feeds and pesticides — at retail prices while their produce is sold at wholesale market prices.

This is compounded because the input-suppliers, together with the traders, processors and retailers of farm and food products are mainly vast, often global, conglomerates which are able to manipulate prices in ways unavailable to farmers. It is hardly surprising, then, that the last 30 years have seen an eightfold cut in the share of UK consumer expenditure reaching farmers' pockets, bringing farm income to a 40-year low.

It is any more surprising to see our planet's ecology threatened by the destruction of the Amazon rainforest to produce "cheap" beef, or to read that vast areas of Australian farmland are being turned to desert and that 13 tons of topsoil are lost in producing each ton of "cheap" wheat in that free trade country (report, August 30, 1988)?

The whole economic system is fundamentally biased against the world's farmers, forcing them to bypass the basic precepts of good husbandry. Salmonella in eggs and nitrates in water are merely a foretaste of much more serious environmental costs to come. How do free traders see food prices reflecting the real cost of sustainable, healthy, humane farming systems on a global scale, with a fair return to farmers?

Yours faithfully,  
AIDAN HARRISON,  
Morrethurst, Netherwitton,  
Morpeeth, Northumberland.

## Traffic troubles

From Mr Nigel Szymmer  
Sir, Paul Valley (*Spectrum*, December 6) sees the merits of "congestion charges" (road pricing) as a way to reduce car traffic and finance new rail facilities, while Paul Channon has argued that this is inegalitarian — which it is.

Is there an egalitarian alternative method of curbing car traffic that is socially acceptable? Yes, there is. The strategy applied in Washington, Houston and other US cities involves provision of "park and ride" parking lots outside cities, official promotion (using large computers) of "car and van pooling" (ride sharing) and, the application of "HOV" (only rules). These restrict the use of certain roadways on certain traffic lanes during certain hours to vehicles carrying a certain minimum number of people. "HOV" stands for high occupancy vehicle.

The fundamental transport fact about London is that some form of effective restraint on the number of cars must be introduced soon. If the roads were less clogged with cars, buses could move more easily, and an improvement of bus services offers by far the cheapest and fastest way of improving the public transport as a whole.

Yours faithfully,  
NIGEL SZYMMER,  
63 Esmond Road, W4.

## Mappa Mundi sale

From Lord Blake, FBA  
Sir, Your report of my speech in the House of Lords on Britain's treasures (Parliament, December 22) contains an unfortunate error. I never said I was "sceptical" whether the sale of the Mappa Mundi "was the easiest way to raise money". On the contrary, I said that that was the easiest way, and that the Dean and Chapter of Hereford were "taking the lazy way out". Nothing said later in the debate leads me to think that I was wrong.

Yours faithfully,  
BLAKE,  
House of Lords.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

## A test of Palestinian promises

From the President of the Herut Movement, Great Britain  
Sir, The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr William Waldegrave, claims (December 23) that the PLO charter has been superseded. If that is true, why does he have to rely on an article written by Mr Bassam Abu Sharif in an obscure publication?

Surely such a momentous decision, if true, would have been announced by Mr Arafat, either at Algiers or at the Geneva UN meeting.

In fact, Mr Abu Sharif, like Mr Arafat, makes a completely artificial distinction: on one hand they claim that the PLO has renounced all forms of violence and on the other they insist that the "armed struggle" for the liberation of Palestine must go on (report, December 19).

Consequently, there is no need to test the veracity of the PLO's declarations; they are contradicted daily by their violent action.

Yours faithfully,  
ERIC GRAUS,  
President,  
Herut Movement of Great Britain,  
143-5 Broodesbury Park, NW2,  
December 23.

From Dr Musa Mazzawi  
Sir, Lord Rothschild refers in his letter today (December 22) to Article 6 of the Palestinian National Covenant which says: "The Jews who had normally resided in Palestine until the beginning of the Zionist invasion will be considered Palestinians."

But he omits to mention that since the adoption of the Covenant in 1968 this provision has been changed. In his speech to the United Nations in 1974, PLO chairman Yasser Arafat said: "When we speak of our common hopes for the Palestine of tomorrow we include... our perspective all Jews now living in Palestine who choose to live with us there in peace and without discrimination... that we might live together in a framework of just peace."

This statement was also specifically endorsed by the Palestine National Council.

Yours faithfully,  
MUSA MAZZAWI,  
2 Paper Buildings,  
Temple, EC4,  
December 22.

## Off-the-hook

From Mr Arthur Hall  
Sir, Have any of your readers discovered unexpected uses for wire coal-hangers? Faced with residue leaves all over the lawn, even after careful raking, I found that by straightening out all except one shoulder, which bent into a handle, a rudimentary leaf-spiker could be formed in seconds.

The prototype proved too flexible, but the Mark 2 version, from two Mark 1 twisted together, is extremely efficient. The leaves gradually move up the wire to form a sort of vegetarian kebap.

Yours faithfully,  
ARTHUR HALL,  
49 Ilex Way,  
Goring-by-Sea, West Sussex.

## Crime and punishment

From Mr D. A. Ferguson  
Sir, I am writing in response to Mr Kilroy-Silk's article, "Punishment in duplicate" (December 23). Whilst I agree with Mr Kilroy-Silk in that families of imprisoned criminals should not be punished or made to suffer for the crimes their relatives have committed, I nevertheless feel that perhaps his comments should have been addressed to "all would-be criminals".

Before perpetrating the crime, the would-be criminal should address himself to the consequences of such action. If the consequences include social suffering and indignation for the family, then this should act as a great deterrent.

After all, society should endeavour to prevent crime in the first place; then the punishment of criminals and their families will, hopefully, not be necessary.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID FERGUSON,  
11 St Andrews Road,  
Blundellsands,  
Liverpool, Merseyside,  
December 23.

## Lessons from British tank choice

From Mr Nicholas Drummond  
Sir, The Government's decision to allow Vickers to develop the Challenger 2 Mk II main battle tank (report, December 21) could easily be regarded as encouraging an analogous situation to the Nimrod AEW/Boeing AWACS fiasco of 1986-87. This is perhaps a justifiable comment, bearing in mind that service chiefs have stated a preference for the American M1A1 Abrams over the improved Challenger.

The proving period granted does at least show that something positive has been learned from the Nimrod saga. More than this, the development of Challenger 1 in the first instance should be remembered since it was not the Government that funded it, but the late Shah of Iran.

The British Army reaped the benefits of the Iran coup in 1979 by receiving a windfall of some 600 tanks originally destined for Persia. This turn of fate was at least fortunate for the Ministry of Defence since it killed two birds with one stone, by giving the Army a tank it badly needed, whilst allowing scarce funds to be diverted elsewhere (presumably to pay for Nimrod).

The Royal Ordnance factory at Leeds, before it was taken over by Vickers, and Vickers itself, both have a long history and consid-

erable expertise in tank design and development. Unlike AEW technology, Britain's tank-building industry has invented some notable technology, not least of which is the Chobham armour used by both the US M1A1 Abrams and the German Leopard II tanks. The quality of Britain's tank-building industry has spawned developments other than just Challenger. The Indian Army, for example, uses the Valiant tank developed by Vickers.

The success of Britain's tank-building industry in the 1970s means that it survived and was profitable without significant Government support. Investment is now required, not through inadequacy, but due to superseding technology produced by other countries who continued to invest, whereas Britain chose to divert funds it would have otherwise had to spend on tank development.

The wisdom behind Mr Younger's decision is that he is attempting to preserve a worthy area of Britain's international defence industry. British engineers have accumulated considerable knowledge and experience since they first designed the Type 1 tank, back in 1915.

Yours faithfully,  
NICHOLAS DRUMMOND,  
83 Stanhope Mews East, SW7,  
December 21.

## Guildford convictions

From Mr Ludovic Kennedy  
Sir, I understand that the Home Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, may soon be coming to a decision about the three men and one woman convicted for taking part in the IRA Guildford pub bombings of 1974.

Whatever remedial action he takes, I implore him not to send the case back a second time to the Court of Appeal. Despite strong evidence at the last hearing there to show that the two IRA men who had admitted to planting the bombs had in fact planted them, and that the convicted four had nothing to do with it, the court's verdict was that the convictions were safe and satisfactory. Whatever new evidence after 15 years may have emerged from the recent inquiry is likely, in my view, to attract the same dusty answer.

The roll call of those who have studied the case and no longer believe that the convictions are safe and satisfactory — among them Cardinal Hume and Archbishop Rucic, Lords Scarman and Devlin, Merlyn Rees, Roy Jenkins, Lord Fitt, as well as the prisoners' solicitor and the authors of two books on the case — can surely no longer be ignored.

If the Home Secretary cannot bring himself to recommend a free pardon, he can still do what Willie Whitelaw did in the Luton sub-postmaster shooting case in 1980 — order the prisoners' immediate and unconditional release. After that, he might care to set up an independent inquiry, chaired by a judge or senior QC, but — because single judges in past inquiries have shown themselves to be safer on the law than the facts — with two lay assessors.

Yours etc.,  
LUDOVIC KENNEDY,  
Ashdown, Avebury, Wiltshire,  
December 28.

## Hands off!

From Mr B. H. Damazer  
Sir, The move by British Rail towards digital clocks (letters, December 13, 17, 21) would be seen as irrelevant were the trains to run in accordance with the published times. I would have no objection to the use of an hour-glass, a long-case clock, a water clock or any other timekeeping device if delays were not so frequent an occurrence.

Of 14 journeys made between Peterborough and London so far in December, seven have been on-time and the other seven a total of 53 minutes later: more than long enough to have completed another 48-minute journey. These times have been measured by my wrist watch.

Yours faithfully,  
B. H. DAMAZER,  
Crowland, Lincolnshire,  
December 21.

## Relative values

From Mr Martin Knapp  
Sir, Bereavement compensation now at £3,500 may be increased to £10,000 as a result of a private member's Bill (report, December 14). Recent libel settlements have included sums of £300,000, £500,000 and £1 million.

That the evidential loss of a spouse or a child should attract so very much less in the way of reparation than the arguable, as distinct from the undisputed, loss of a reputation reflects a society whose scale of values is sadly awry.

Yours sincerely,  
MARTIN KNAPP,  
1 Brookling Barn, Ashprington,  
Totnes, Devon.

From Mr Trevor Spavold  
Sir, Mrs Knapp's fairy lights (December 22) are still wet behind the ears. Our set, purchased from the Leicester branch of British Home Stores at Christmas, 1935, for the sum of 5s., is still going strong. They brightened all our wartime Christmases and I still recall my childish wonder, at the age of six, when they were first switched on.

Yes, you've guessed, my box is marked, "Made in Japan".  
Yours faithfully,  
TREVOR SPAVOLD,  
28 Wilford Place,  
Ashby-de-la-Zouch,  
Leicestershire.



COURT AND SOCIAL COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM Lady Abel Smith has succeeded Lady Susan Hussey as Lady in Waiting to the Queen. Princess Alexandra will attend a charity premiere of Gorillas in the Mist at the Empire Theatre, Leicester Sq, on January 24, in aid of World Wide Fund for Nature - United Kingdom. The Princess of Wales, Patron of the British Red Cross Youth, will visit the society's national headquarters at 9 Grosvenor Crescent, SW1, on January 26. The Duchess of York, Patron of the Combined Services Winter Sports Association, will attend their Alpine championships at Megève, France, from January 31 to February 3.

Birthdays today

June Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, 75; Sir Richard Beaumont, diplomat, 76; Lord Beaverbrook, 77; Mr John Connell, former president, Distillers Company, 64; Mr Bernard Cribbins, actor, 60; General Sir Robert Ford, 65; Professor L.C.B. Gower, former vice-chancellor, Southampton University, 75; Sir Simon Hornby, chairman, W.H. Smith, 54; Mr Gilbert Hunt, company chairman, 74; Mr G.H. Newsom, QC, 79; Dr Magnus Pyke, nutritionist and broadcaster, 80; the Right Rev Mark Satter, Bishop of Birmingham, 52; Sir Kenneth Sharp, accountant, 62; Mr Harvey Smith, showjumper, 50; Mr Jon Voight, actor, 50; Sir Edward Williams, former commissioner-general, Expo 88, Brisbane, 67.

Anniversaries

Births: Andrew Johnson, 17th President of the USA 1865-69, 1808, William Ewart Gladstone, prime minister 1868-74, 1880-85, 1886, 1892-94, 1809; Pablo Casals, cellist, 1876. Deaths: Thomas a Becket, murdered in Canterbury Cathedral, 1170; Jacques-Louis David, painter, 1825; Charles Lamb, essayist, 1834; Christina Rossetti, poet, 1894; Rainer Maria Rilke, poet, 1926.

SCIENCE REPORT

The cold dark dinosaurs of the Pole

News that there was thriving animal and plant life in the cold and dark Polar regions millions of years ago is at odds with the theory that a meteorite impact was responsible for the extinction of the dinosaurs. Dinosaurs have been believed incapable of withstanding the unfriendly conditions that would follow such an impact, but fossils from Australia show that dinosaurs may have been harder than we think. Similar fossil deposits are already known from northern Alaska and Canada, so if Santa lived at the North Pole between 80 and 65 million years ago, his sleigh would probably have been pulled by a team of two-legged dinosaurs. Writing in the December 9 issue of Science, P.V. Rich, of Monash University in Victoria, and colleagues describe fossil plants and animals from sites in southern Australia that had latitudes of nearly 80 degrees South at the time, well within the Antarctic Circle (which is about 66 degrees South). At that time, Australia was just beginning to separate from Antarctica and move northwards. The separation created broad rift valleys for animals and plants to colonise, valleys that later

opened up to form part of the Southern Ocean. Despite the southerly location, tree rings in fossil wood indicate a cool, seasonal climate. The average annual temperature was low, perhaps less than 5 degrees Centigrade, and there may have been frost and snow in the winter. Stands of conifers and ferns were populated by a wide variety of insects, earthworms and other invertebrates, and the rivers and lakes were inhabited by shrimp, fish, amphibians, turtles and small plesiosaurs. The air was filled with pterodactyls as well as birds - five feather impressions have been left in the rock. The most prominent land animals were dinosaurs: there were at least three kinds of small, two-legged herbivores called hypsilophodontids, which were preyed on by carnivorous dinosaurs. One of the hypsilophodontids had an unusually large brain and pair of eyes, adaptations which the authors suggest that it lived in the area all year round, not migrating northwards to avoid the Polar night. The conditions were far more amenable than those at the South Pole today. Nevertheless, the Sun remained below the horizon for as

long as two months every winter, and it comes as a surprise that dinosaurs could survive such conditions. Some of the dinosaurs identified by the researchers are known from nowhere else, and others appear to be relict species - confined to the area long after their relatives elsewhere in the world had become extinct. This suggests that south Australia was a zoologically isolated part of the world, rather like Australia today. The prevalence of remains of young dinosaurs in the Australian deposits suggests that many of the fossil deposits were hypsilophodont nesting grounds, similar to those unearthed in the early 1980s in Montana by palaeontologist John Horner and his colleagues. He showed that hypsilophodontids and their close relatives, the duck-billed dinosaurs or hadrosaurs, often congregated in huge rookeries comprising thousands of individuals, rather like penguins do today. Horner found remains of dinosaurs in all stages of growth, including embryos still within the eggs (Science Report, March 21). Henry Gee

OBITUARIES

RT REV RICHARD HANSON Learned theologian who had pastoral flair

The Right Rev Richard Patrick Crosland Hanson, former Bishop of Clogher in Ireland and who successively held Chairs of Divinity, or Theology, at Durham, Nottingham and Manchester Universities, died on December 23 aged 72. Richard Hanson was in the classical tradition of eminent Anglican divines. He was a first-rate scholar, with special expertise in the early Fathers; pastorally minded, so that even as a Manchester professor he had pastoral charge of two deaneries in the diocese; a staunch and convinced Anglican theologian and perhaps for that very reason a keen ecumenist - despite an early book subtitled A Dissuasive against the Church of Rome and blunt speaking on the Anglican Orthodox Commission. He wrote many books, some in collaboration with his distinguished twin brother, Dr A. T. Hanson. Among his better-known works are his life of St Patrick and Allegory and Event, his study on Origen. His magnum opus in preparation for so many years, The Search for the Christian Doctrine of God, has only just been published.

Born in Dublin, and brought up in the best traditions of Anglo-Irish culture, he was the twin son of a distinguished civil servant and his mother was a friend of George Bernard Shaw. He was educated at Cheltenham College and Trinity College Dublin where, like his brother, he achieved a row of Firsts. Like him, too, he was ordained in 1941 to a curacy in the Church of Ireland. After four years of parish life, he began his academic career as Vice Principal of Queen's College, Birmingham (1945-50). The pastoral experience of these early years coloured his ministry for the rest of his life. Persuaded to move to Nottingham, after two years in the parish of St Andrew, he became a lecturer in theology at Nottingham University from 1952-52, gaining an early reputation as a foremost patristic scholar. In 1962 he was appointed Canon of Durham and Lightfoot Professor of Divinity. He preferred Nottingham, however, and after only two years he returned there as Professor of Theology (1964-70).

Hanson temporarily forsook his academic career by returning to his native Ireland as Bishop of Clogher, the Anglican diocese which bridges Eire and Ulster. The Irish troubles broke out while he was there. In 1973 he resigned in some frustration and came back to England on his appointment as Professor of Historical and Contemporary Theology at Manchester University. He held this post until his retirement in 1984 and also acted throughout this period as Assistant Bishop of Manchester. Excellent in personal relations, especially with students, Bishop Hanson disliked both deviousness and cant, and preferred to speak his mind, whether to academic colleagues or to Ireland or as a member of the Anglican Orthodox Commission. He could have made a more significant contribution to the episcopate as Archbishop of Dublin rather than as Bishop of remote and rural Clogher; but as a theologian he was eminent in his own right. He leaves behind a widow and two adopted sons and two adopted daughters.

HAL ASHBY

Witty director who made Harold and Maude



Hal Ashby, the American film editor and director, died on December 27 at the age of 59. He had been suffering from cancer. His work was notable for tackling ambitious or difficult subjects, often drawn from contemporary American life, and treating them with a boldness of technique and barbed humour. As an editor he won an Oscar for In the Heat of the Night and as a director he was nominated for Coming Home. Born in Ogden, Utah, in 1936, he attended Utah State University and entered the film industry in the early 1960s. His first important editing credit was on Tony Richardson's The Loved One and he went on to edit several films for Norman Jewison, including In the Heat of the Night, The Cincinnati Kid and The Thomas Crown Affair.

He turned to directing in 1970 with The Landlord, a satirical comedy about a young white liberal who buys property in a black slum, and followed it with Harold and Maude, in which the veteran actress Ruth Gordon played an 80-year-old in love with a 20-year-old boy. There was much acerbic humour, as well as uninhibited language, in The Last Detail, which starred Jack Nicholson as a naval officer escorting a young recruit to jail, while Shampoo followed the amorous exploits of a Beverly Hills hairdresser (Warren Beatty) during the election of President Nixon. Bound For Glory was a disappointingly indulgent biography of the folk singer, Woody Guthrie, but in 1978 Ashby had a big commercial success with Coming Home. Charting the affair between a paralysed Vietnam war veteran and a lonely soldier's wife, it won Oscars for both its

stars, Joo Voight and Jane Fonda. In 1979 Ashby directed Peter Sellers in his last important role in Being There, a gently ironic fable about an illiterate gardener who unwittingly becomes a national celebrity. Among Ashby's later works were the gambling comedy, Lookin' to Get Out, which also starred Joo Voight, and the Rolling Stones' concert film, Let's Spend the Night Together.

Hungarian chess prodigy prepares to do battle



Judit Polgar, the 12-year-old Hungarian whose performance has shaken the chess world this year, walks on the sands at Hastings with her mother, Klara, before taking part as a last-minute entry in the Foreign and Colonial Chess Tournament at Hastings. Judit, who won the individual gold medal in the women's Chess Olympics in Greece earlier this month, will be fighting for first prize in the Challengers' group at Hastings, our Chess Correspondent writes. (Photograph: Alan Weller).

Bellamy criticizes 'tax' for Lakeland

Dr David Bellamy the botanist has criticized plans to impose a 'tax' on visitors to the Lake District. The campaigning naturalist says plans to levy a 50p-a-day charge on Lakeland visitors in return for the pleasure of gazing across Windermere or walking the lanes and fells of Wordsworth country do not accord with the concept of a national park. The Lake District National Park Authority argues the tax would be a legitimate charge for the pleasures enjoyed by around 12 million visitors each year. Yesterday Dr Bellamy said: "The National Trust was set up so that people would have free access to the countryside. It appeals to me that people might have to pay." Such a tax would be "another example to the World that Britain is an unswerving country. Mrs Thatcher should turn around and have a hard think about what is happening to this country." Mr John Toothill, National Parks Officer, wants the Lake District Special Planning Board to push a bill through Parliament which would give them power to impose the charge. It could be collected at the roadside from day trippers entering the area and be added to hotel bills for holiday-makers. The Lake District National Parks Authority has an annual budget of £3.5 million provided by the Government, the



local council and cash it generates by commercial activities. Mr Toothill said: "Millions of tourists take pleasure out of the Lake District, so it is about time they put something back in. The landscape is being worn away all around us. We simply don't have the funds to repair the annual damage. A levy of this sort would raise between two and four million pounds." Mr Toothill has already won the support of local Labour and Tory MPs for a Bill in Parliament to impose the tax. Mr Andrew Marted, director of the Lake District Tourist Board said: "It would mean that people staying in hotels would be paying twice for the facilities in the Lake District. The hotels already pay business rates which obviously get passed on to their customers."

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.S. Cappell and Miss C.F. Hall. The engagement is announced between Mark, only son of Mr M.D. Cappell, of San Diego, California, and Mrs C. Cappell, of Matakaw, New Jersey, and Carolyn, only daughter of Mr and Mrs B.C.M. Hall, of Stoneygate, Leicester. Mr C.J. Cole and Miss R.L. Tuckwell. The engagement is announced between Christopher James, son of Mr J. Cole, of Stoke Ferry, Norfolk, and Mrs C. Clark, of Hull, and Ruth Juliet, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Tuckwell, of Good Easter, Essex. Mr J.J.C. Mitchell and Miss S.M.L. Rothery. The engagement is announced between Jonathan, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Charles Mitchell, of White Lodge, Dayhills, Staffordshire, and Sara Mae, daughter of Mr and Mrs Keith Rothery, of Fieldhead, Hinderton, Wirral, Cheshire. Mr J.G. Riddick and Ms J.M. Farley. The engagement is announced between John Gordon, son of the late Mr J.W.G. Riddick, of Stirling, and Mrs D. Crockett, of Northamptonshire, and Joanne Mary, daughter of Mr P.F. Farley, of Cornwall, and Mrs D. Thompson, of Hampshire. Mr M.A. Smith and Miss B.M. Howie. The engagement is announced between Marc, eldest son of Mr and Mrs D.A. Smith, of Potten End, Hertfordshire, and Bridget, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs R.F. Howie, of Oulton, West Yorkshire.

Archaeology Lanfranc's priory is to be uncovered

Excavations in Canterbury over the next year will lay bare almost the entire plan of a priory founded nine centuries ago. Founded in AD1084 by Lanfranc, the first Norman Archbishop of Canterbury, the priory held the relics of St Mildred and St Edburg, and was the home of Thomas a Becket in life and the site of a chapel dedicated to him after his martyrdom. St Gregory's Priory lay outside the Northgate of Canterbury, serving a large hospital dedicated to St John the Baptist. The hospital, the oldest in Britain, survives as a foundation, and among its remains is the oldest continually used latrine in the world, one of the two original necessaria built for the monks. The site of the priory is being redeveloped by Townscape Houses, and they are paying for an excavation of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, under the direction of Mr Paul Bennett, which will, he says, "reveal a complete priory, perhaps for the first time in British urban archaeology." "Nearly all the principal buildings of the establishment, including the church, cloister, chapter house, dormitory, refectory and Prior's lodging, lie within the area to be excavated, together with the

DUKE OF NEWCASTLE Collector of old and new insect species

The 10th Duke of Newcastle, who died on December 25 at the age of 63, was one of the most distinguished of modern British entomologists. He has bequeathed to the Royal Museum of Scotland, in the name of his cousin, the 9th Duke. Edward Charles Pelham-Clinton's interest in entomology started at Eton where it was fostered by Nigel Wykes, then a master at the college. After service as a captain in the Royal Artillery during the Second World War, in which he saw service in Italy, he went up to Trinity College Cambridge where he read zoology with entomology as his special subject. On graduation Pelham-Clinton joined the staff of the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh - now the Royal Museums of Scotland - where he was in charge of entomol-

ogy until he retired in 1981. Although he was primarily a lepidopterist, his work there covered all orders of insects. His own collection, which he has bequeathed to the Royal Museum of Scotland, is especially rich in British Microlepidoptera; he was an acknowledged expert on the Elachistidae. He confined himself to the British fauna and travelled so widely that he could claim to have collected in every county in the British Isles except for two or three in Northern Ireland. He kept detailed records of all the species, however common, which he encountered and had his diaries and notebooks copied and deposited at Edinburgh where they are available to students. He was an Associate Editor of Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland,

covering several families himself as author in addition to his editorial duties. His wide knowledge, professional expertise, meticulous accuracy and lucid mind made him an invaluable member of the editorial team. Pelham-Clinton added a number of species to the British list, and a small gelechiid which he discovered new to science on the western beaches of Scotland is named Scrobipalpa clintoni in his honour. His wit, warmth and enthusiasm made him an ideal companion in his favourite pastime, a collecting holiday spent with a few close friends. He was a man of great charm and kindness, noted particularly for his observance of old world courtesies. He was unmarried and is survived by his mother, Mrs Hermione Pelham-Clinton.

KATHLEEN MARY LINES High standards in children's books

Kathleen Mary Lines, who died in Winchester on December 24 aged 86, devoted her life to the belief that only the best books are good enough for children and her influence in raising the standards of these, both in editing and publishing, was incalculable. Born in Edmonton, Canada, on September 24, 1902, K as she liked to be called - trained as a children's librarian under the exacting eye of Lillian Smith at Toronto Public Library. She came to England in the late 1930s becoming a consultant to the Oxford University Press children's book department. She helped to lay the foundations of the prestigious list later moulded and developed by John Bell in the late 1940s and 1950s. In 1946 the National Book League asked her to prepare a supplement to their children's list. The result was the publication by the Cambridge University Press in 1950 of Four to Fourteen, Kathleen Lines's personal and annotated selection of over 1,200 books "from which a child's own library can be chosen". Four to Fourteen awoke many people professionally involved with children's books to the importance of high standards and it soon became the basic selection tool for libraries throughout

this country and the Commonwealth. In the mid 1950s The Sunday Times commissioned her to select The One Hundred Best Books for Children. She chose only 99, the hundredth book to be added by readers of the paper. To her dismay the overwhelming vote was for Frances Hodgson Burnett's The Secret Garden, a book which she had always thought overrated. She was herself the compiler of a number of anthologies for children, notably Lavender's Blue, with illustrations by Harold Jones. This collection of nursery rhymes possesses the quality and distinction by which Kathleen Lines will be remembered.

EITHNE DUNNE

Eithne Dunne, the Irish actress, who has died aged 71, was highly regarded in many major parts, even those against her temperament, such as Nina in The Seagull which she played, among much else, with Michael MacLiammoir's Gate Theatre Company in its 1956 tour to Paris, Egypt and Malta. During her career she was a natural leading actress, exceeding quick and professional in all she did. Her work in Ireland at various theatres, the Abbey

for one, though she was never a permanent member of the company, was far better known than in England. Though she was successful in repertory - she acted at Nottingham and Bristol - she did relatively little in London. One of her parts at Nottingham was the mother, Giosetta, in Christopher Fry's summer comedy, A Yard of Sun (1970) which she played soon afterwards in London at the Old Vic. She is remembered in London, too, for her performance of the doomed mother in the novelist Edna O'Brien's play, A Cheap Bun of Nice Flowers - not perhaps a compulsively attractive label - done at the Arts Theatre in 1962. She was also a television actress. Shaw's Candida among her parts - and her few films included No Resting Place, directed by Paul Rotha. She was married to the actor Gerard Healy who died in 1962.

University news

Sir Terence Beckett, former Director General of the Confederation of British Industry, is to be the new Chairman of the Council of the University of Essex. He has also been appointed as a Pro-Chancellor. Sir Terence will take up his duties next October when the present Chairman, Sir Andrew Stark, retires. Keele GRANTS £125,406 over three years, from the Commission of the European Communities to the Department of Communication and Neuroscience in collaboration with IAN Grenoble for work by Dr W A Ainsworth on The investigation of automatic speech recognition based on physiological model of the auditory system. £88,020 over three years, from Multiple Sclerosis Society to the Department of Postgraduate Medicine for work by Professor D H Foster and Dr J R Heron on A long-term sequential study correlating clinical variation, visual profile and immunological status in multiple sclerosis. £82,788 over three years, from

SERC to the Department of Communication and Neuroscience for work by Professor D H Foster on Early symbolic descriptions of spatial and chromatin images in human and machine vision. £64,980 over three years, from ESRC to the Centre for Criminology and Department of Education for work by Dr P Carlen and Mr D Gleeson on Law, education and social control: The case of non-school attenders. £60,000 from SERC to the Computer Centre and the Departments of Chemistry and Physics for work by Professor C R A Catlow, Dr D Fincham and Professor W Fuller on A transparent array for materials simulation and computational biophysics (a contribution towards the cost of computer equipment). £55,920 over three years, from SERC as a share of collaborative award to the Universities of Keele and Bath, and University College, London to the

Department of Chemistry for work by Professor C R A Catlow on Computer simulation of minerals and their behaviour. £44,340 over three years, plus 360 hours Cray XMP from SERC to the Department of Physics for work by Professor M J Gillson on The ab initio calculation of defect and impurity energies and structures in solids. £44,230 over three years, plus 60 shifts of SRS beamtime, from SERC to the Department of Chemistry for work by Dr A N Fitch on Solid state structural chemistry by powder synchrotron radiation diffraction. £38,165 over two years, from SERC to the Department of Biological Sciences for work by Dr Ruth Duncan on Interactions of soluble synthetic polymers designed as drug carriers with artificial and natural membranes. £34,740 over two years, from SERC to the Department of Postgraduate Medicine for work by Professor P Rolfe on Elec-

tronic impedance tomography: methods for improving image quality. £33,180 over two years, from SERC as a share of a cooperative research grant awarded to the University and the Pharmaceuticals Division of ICI which is to make a contribution of £55,269, to the Department of Biological Sciences for work by Professor J B Lloyd on Synthetic polymers for drug delivery: development of biocompatible, degradable polymers. £28,080 over one year, from SERC to the Department of Economics and Management Science for work by Dr K P P Tribe on Commercial and economic science in British Higher Education 1890-1930. £22,600 from the DTI to the Department of Physics acting on behalf of the Staffordshire Design and Technology Centre for developing with Michelin Tyres PLC, a course in metrology targeted at personnel in industry. £20,015 from the West Mid-

lands Regional Health Authority to the Department of Biological Sciences for work by Professor J B Lloyd. £10,300 from Staffordshire County Council to the Department of Education for a GRIST evaluation project supervised by Mr D Gleeson. Up to £7,637 over one year, from the SERC Starlink Programme to the Department of Physics to partially support the appointment of a computer manager for the Microvax Computer operated by the Astrophysics group. The first MSc course in Optical Recording is to be introduced at Keele University in October 1989. Fifteen scholarships have been made available by the Training Agency who are funding a two-year development period. Polytechnic news Mr Hugh Meytalf, former British Aerospace Deputy Chief Executive (Operations), has been presented with an honorary Doctor of Science degree by Hatfield Polytechnic.







# A WAVE OF EMPTINESS

DRAWINGS BY GLYNN BOYD HART

## FIRST LIGHT by Peter Ackroyd



The latest novel from the author of *Hawksmoor* and *Chatterton* will be published in the spring — and also throughout this week in *The Times*, in six extracts

Part 4: An archaeologist, Mark Clare, and a civil servant, Evangeline Tupper, have visited Farmer Mint, owner of the land in Pilgrim Valley upon which the excavation of a great tumulus is taking place. Meanwhile, an ageing comic, Joey Hanover, and his wife, Floey, walk on the beach, where Joey despairs of discovering his own past.

As the excavation continues on the site of the tumulus, astronomer Damian Fall experiences disturbing revelations in the observatory on Holback Moor.

Later that same night and, as the Hanovers slept, as Evangeline Tupper slept, as the Mints slept, Damian Fall sat in the darkness of the observatory. Squares of bright colour were reflected upon his face as he plotted the light curve of Aldebaran. On another screen he called up a model of the spectral emissions from the star, and he could see its shell of gases in a dark revolving sphere — the ripples and undulations in the surface of that sphere like the dunes and tumuli of the earth. But look, Damian. Look closely at the shapes being formed. Could it be true that I know this place? Could the star have taken on the shape of Pilgrim Valley? Yes. And look, it is moving.

Darkness. He has fallen forward or backward. He has not been able to hold himself against the power of gravity. And yet what is gravity, except a wave of emptiness? It is not a "power" at all. Gravity is simply one aspect of a force which no one understands. But what of this chair? This observatory? They are no more than whorls or knots in the cosmic field, temporary patterns of energy like the changes in brightness across the surface of Aldebaran. The world and the visible universe are an intrusion of stray matter into the vast nothingness, a relic of that inconceivable moment when space and time were created together, they are fossils brought together by the stellar wind that has blown from that first moment of fortuitous and unnecessary creation.

Darkness. And I know that matter itself is a residue, an obstacle in the path of the perfect patterning of the cosmos, a stain upon the face of the original nothingness. Gravity cannot exist without objects; objects cannot exist without gravity; space is inconceivable outside of time, and time itself is only an aspect of space. And how much purer, if that force could exist without these spirals of space-time piercing through it? Does the universe expand because it is yearning to be free of itself?

Darkness. And yet the universe cannot escape from the relics of its origin energy thrust into time and space and thereby "created", turned into light and heat, slowly decomposing into visible being. The cosmos can no more reverse its fall into the dimensions of space and time than the world can discard the relics of its own development. That is why those buried in the tumulus are as much a part of me as I am of them. Everything is touching everything else, expanding outwards but still

mingled together. If a leaf were miraculously to disappear from a single tree the whole universe would be destroyed, because at that instant the balance of forces would be disturbed.

Darkness. And I, too, am an aspect of that order, a relic of earliest creation which space and time have now woven together: nothing can happen to me without subtly altering the shape of the visible universe. I too am moving away through limitless space; I am part of that infinite expansion which seems to me to be an infinite horror.

Darkness. But perhaps there were no stars and no planets, no nebulae and no constellations; perhaps they merely came into existence in recognition of our wishes and demands. And if there came a moment when no one on earth was studying the heavens — no child looking up in wonder at the stars, no radio telescope directed towards the distant galaxies — what then? Was it possible that the heavens would then disappear?

Yet I am not my self; I am as evanescent and as shifting as every other part of the cosmos, a fortuitous arrangement of particles, a small plateau in the endless decomposition of space and time, a stasis in the struggle of forces which has turned into matter.

Darkness. And yet I am not matter; I am merely the space through which the forces of the universe pass, just as the billions of neutrinos pass through me in their journey across the cosmos. I am of the same order of being as a gas cloud, or a constellation.

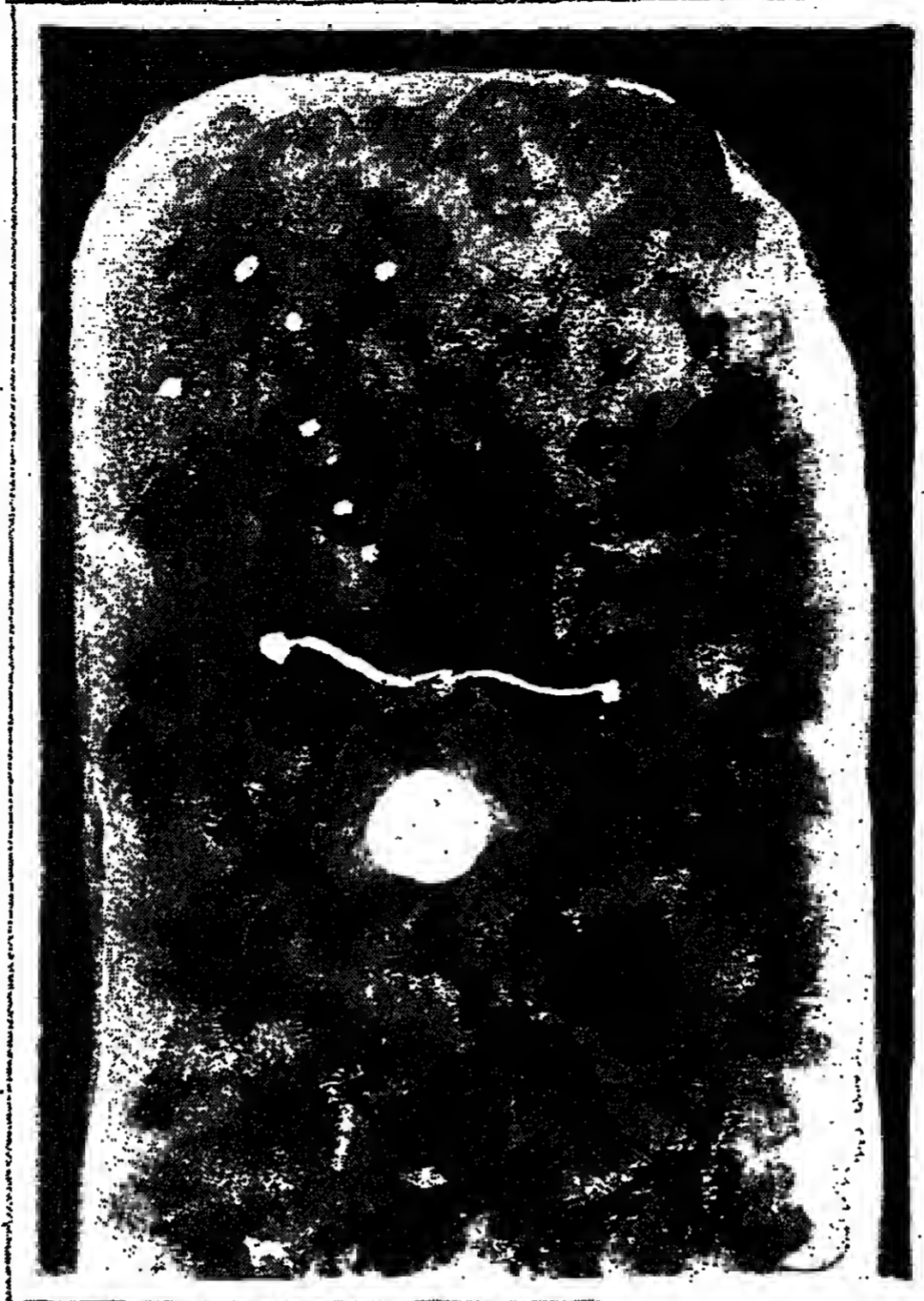
Everything is watching everything else and now, as Damian looked up through the open dome of the observatory, he could see the stars quivering and dancing in the turbulent air.

He wanted to flee. But where could he escape to? He could not flee to the sky. He knew that there was no sky. He knew that it was only light which had been trapped. Darkness still.

Darkness. And I know that matter itself is a residue, an obstacle in the path of the perfect patterning of the cosmos, a stain upon the face of the original nothingness. Gravity cannot exist without objects; objects cannot exist without gravity; space is inconceivable outside of time, and time itself is only an aspect of space. And how much purer, if that force could exist without these spirals of space-time piercing through it? Does the universe expand because it is yearning to be free of itself?

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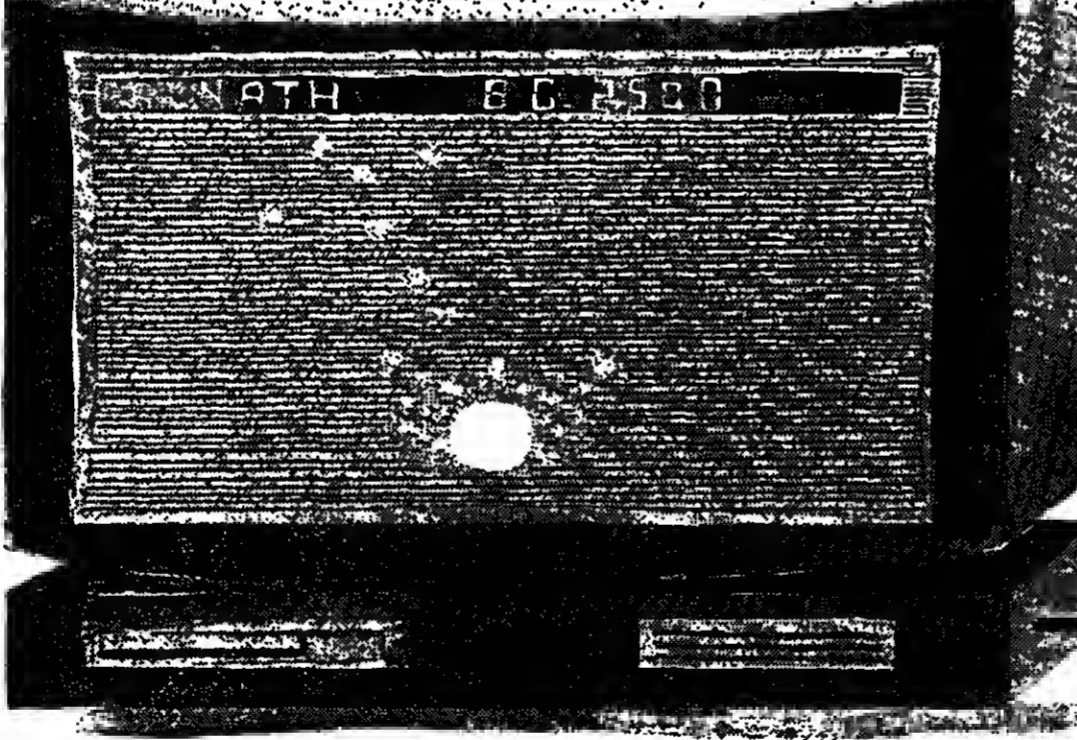
He took the photographs as Mark explained how the engraved whorls and spirals had been found on the blind entrance of the tomb, and he knew at once what Mark had discovered. "If this is a star map," he said, "then here are the Pleiades." He pointed towards seven marks, showing white upon the negative. "There is Alnath within them." He pointed towards



a blurred indentation, which may have been no more than a smear across the stone. "And here are the Hyades." His index finger moved down to three smaller marks, joined by a trembling line. "And there —" his finger encircled a much larger area of white, which must have represented some deep indentation in the surface of the blind entrance — there is Aldebaran, the great star. How odd that it should be preserved in stone like this." He put down the photographs. "Do you have a date?"

"All the evidence suggests —" Mark began to say and both men laughed at the phrase. "All the evidence suggests that the tomb was built around 2500 BC. Can you tell me anything about the vernal equinox then?"

"It will take a minute." Damian went back to the computer, where all the information on the movement of the heavens was stored. On the screen a parallelogram revolved slowly; then all of its lines began to spin apart and a new pattern was formed. "At the time of the vernal equinox in 2500 BC," Damian said, "those particular stars were just visible upon the eastern horizon. Come and look at them." Mark went over to the console, but all he saw were small crosses shimmering upon the screen. "Your own map is more dramatic," Damian said. "But the information is the same. The same night sky has been restored to us."



"These people must have been able to forecast the movement of the stars as accurately as we do." He turned off the computer and for an instant Mark could see the linear model rushing away towards the sides of the screen. "And there is a grain of comfort in that," Damian went on. He was no longer looking at Mark as he spoke. "At least I know the stars were really there, after all. Whoever these people were, at least they saw the same light."

And still the excavations continue, steadily going downwards until the chamber tomb is laid bare.

Mark was kneeling in front of the side entrance, so that his face was at a level with the opening within the stones; the cold seemed to be drawing him in, actually ingesting his breath, and for a moment he felt dizzy. He would have fallen, but he placed his hands against the ancient wall until he had recovered himself. Now there was no help for it: it was time to go forward. The space was just wide enough for him to pass through, but he only placed his head and shoulders between the stones; he did not want to walk upon the floor of the interior, not yet. He did not want to move inside the tomb. So he lay down within the entrance itself and peered into the small side chamber.

Bright sunlight outside, but pitch blackness within. There was no smell of decay but, rather, the denser and more pervasive smell of old earth and old stone. With a start he drew back his head: it was as if he had confronted some living thing, trapped in the tomb but now rushing towards him. The sudden movement backward had precipitated him out into the light but he did not glance at the others; instead he looked down at his hands and clothing, because the smell of old earth and old stone already seemed to be clinging to them. Slowly he unhooked a torch from his belt, turned it on, and once more manoeuvred himself between the stones. He shone the torch within the darkness of the chamber, and its thin ray of light touched something on the ground. For a moment Mark closed his eyes in terror; but the outline of this thing remained still even as the light played upon it, and he saw that it was a dish or basin of stone placed in the very middle of the chamber. There were no objects around it — no debris or scattered artefacts — and it occurred to him that this room might otherwise be bare. He placed the torch in his left hand, still with its ray focusing upon the bowl as if it might move or disappear if the light were not directed onto it, and with his right hand he felt the ground just inside the entrance where he lay. He had time only to sense flat stone, but this pavement was so cold that the sudden shock of it made him drop the torch; the clatter echoed through the small chamber and seemed to travel down the central passageway of the tomb, entering various rooms and recesses until quite suddenly it stopped. It was as if this echo had been muffled at some particular point.

The torch had not gone out but in the fall the beam had now shifted to expose the far wall facing Mark: there was a stone slab here which seemed to block whatever entrance the side chamber must once have possessed but, no, it was not completely blocked. The torchlight had revealed a circle of greater lightness, and he realized that this was the contour of a porthole carved in the base of the stone slab — a porthole which must lead to the central passage of the tumulus, and through which it was possible to enter or leave this small chamber. So at least he knew that, if he wished to, he could make further progress.

To test the echo he had just heard he whispered "Hello" and a murmured "Hello" was returned from the chambers beyond: he knew from his own earlier

surroundings just how large this tumulus was but at this moment it seemed to him to be immense, elaborate, incalculable. His whisper might travel far ever through the cold and the darkness. And so he was straddled between two worlds — the upper half of his body now within the tomb as eagerly he peered forward, the lower half still protruding in the outer world. Part of him had been swallowed up.

Now very hesitantly and very carefully, he tried to stand upright in the chamber; as yet he had no idea how low its roof might be. Then he felt it just above his head. Or, rather, he sensed its presence — as he had noticed in previous excavations, the human body seemed quickly to fit itself into the contours and limitations of these ancient places. He was bent over now, the ceiling some five and a half feet above the floor; he was crouching inside the tomb. He was the first to have entered this place for more than 4,000 years, and with that knowledge he acquired new energy. He shuffled his feet, as if at the beginning or end of a dance. And then he put the torch beneath his chin, so that its occluded beam travelled upward and turned his face — if there had been anyone to see it — into a kind of gargoyles. Then he spoke some words into the cold air — inconsiderable words, nonsense words, but words that reclaimed this place for human occupation. "I am making a mappemunde," he said, and the phrase echoed through the tomb. And he felt pride — not pride in himself, for being there, but pride in the lineage and in the continuation. Pride in the words that issued from him but which had their origins among the long dead. In this enclosed space he sensed the closeness of worship but it was not just the worship of ancestors but, rather, the worship of time itself. The passage of time. And yes, this was a passage grave.

When the tomb is finally revealed, the archaeologists discover a terminal chamber and within it the remains of a hanged man. But there is something else, something for which Mark Clare returns late at night.

Mark Clare stood in front of the tomb but, in this darkness, it was difficult to see where the stones ended and the sky began. He held his torch in his right hand but he did not want to use it, not yet, and gradually the starlight revealed to him the true outline of the chamber grave. He had already dismantled the green canvas which protected it — he wanted to view the structure entire, as it had been in just such a light as this thousands of years before.

He was trembling in the cold, and even the crackling noise he made within his anorak seemed too loud; but then the silence enshrouded him, and he could not move. He had the strangest sensation of being listened to. With an effort he walked across the forecourt and put his hands against the markings on the blind entry, feeling the whorls and spirals with his fingers. He knew no more than the people who had carved these shapes and, beneath the canopy of the heavens, on this dark night, they seemed to him to represent true knowledge. Now, when he looked up, he saw the same stars there on the horizon, as Damian Fall had shown him, were the Pleiades. And there, with its faint red glow, was Aldebaran.

He walked slowly around the tumulus until he reached the small side entrance between the stones; he knelt down and for a moment peered into the absolute darkness. Was his wife right? Was it now, in the most silent part of the night, when the tomb was most like its ancient state, was it now that he would begin to resolve those problems which the excavations of the day had revealed? What was Kathleen's phrase? The soul's midnight? He bowed his head and passed through the entry.

### TOMORROW: DISCOVERY AND LOSS

1988 was European Film Year, when the best minds of European cinema — West and East — puzzled to define the character of the continent's film culture, and to devise strategies to defend it against the omnivorous monster of Hollywood. For seven decades European film industries have struggled for economic existence. The argument of European Film Year was that the threat now to be faced is nothing less than cultural extinction.

A group of directors including Bergman, Bertolucci, Fellini, Angelopoulos, Wenders and Richard Attenborough signed an appeal on behalf of their European fellows. "We are becoming more and more aware of how the written word is being forced from our lives by moving images, how Gutenberg's galaxy has evolved into the galaxy of Lumiere.

"Films that conquer cinemas around the world — and especially those broadcast via satellite — tell millions upon millions of viewers our story, what we wish to say... The danger, however, is that this could lead to cultural homogeneity, a downfall in artistic taste and a pollution of the intellectual and spiritual values...

British first-time and most senior film-makers had the best of it, says David Robinson of 1988, European Film Year

## Neither a great vintage nor a dead loss

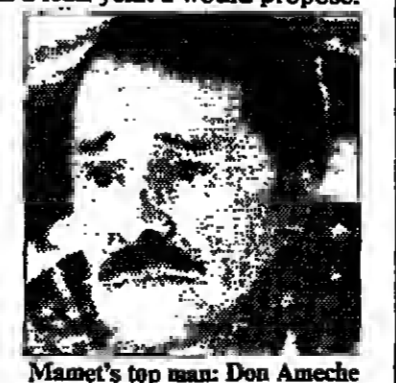
"This innovative and often admirable 'world power' of moving images is slowly threatening the existence of our European film culture. The cinema born of Europe and for many years proof of a continent rich in tradition and manifold in its ideals, a cinema which offered the world a knowledge of what it meant to be a European... is slowly being driven from the screens of our movie theatres and television."

The goal then must be "to protect European culture by promoting the true value of her cinematography so that it may receive its due attention and find audiences throughout the world". The first efforts towards this European cinema during the year included the inauguration of a European Film Prize, a European Film Development Fund, and exhortations to governments to organize efficient mechanisms to encourage film production — likely to fall on deaf ears in Britain.

By and large the year's Hollywood production confirmed the Europeans' worst fears of "downfall in artistic taste". There was *Friday the Thirteenth VII*, *Rambo III* and *Flesh-Eating Mothers*. There was fruitful territory for socio-psychologists in the sudden eruption of films about magical return to infancy: *Like Father, Like Son*, *Vice Versa*, *18 Again*

### Bouquets, a Brickbat and a Salute to a Veteran

- The seasonal game of awards cannot be shirked, even in a lean year. I would propose:
  - Best Film: *Distant Voices*, *Still Lives* (Terence Davies, GB)
  - Best Actor: Don Ameche in David Mamet's *Things Change* (US; opens in London March 3)
  - Best Actress: the female ensemble in *Distant Voices*, *Still Lives*
  - Best First Film: *ex aequo*: Miguel Pereira's *Veronica Cruz* (GB/Argentina); Chris Menges's *A World Apart* (GB)
  - Turkey of the Year: Franco Zeffirelli's *The Young Toscanini* (Italy)
  - Guinness Record for the Oldest Working Director: Joris Ivens, Dutch classic documentarist, who at 90 completed *Une Histoire de Venet* in China.



Mamet's top man: Don Ameche

and, rather superior to its fellows, Penny Marshall's *Big*. *Big* was Hollywood's second biggest box office success of the year, grossing \$112 million in six months, against the \$150 million earned by the runaway hit of 1988, *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, in the same time. Both, however, seem likely to be overtaken by *Scrooged*. In a different box-office league, *The Last Temptation of Christ* provided the major scandal of the movie year.

Apart from these, the Hollywood pictures that broke out of the conventions of situation comedy, police thriller and schlock horror, to address a half-way grown-up audience, could be counted on the fingers. They might include Clint Eastwood's *Bird*, Barry Levinson's *Good Morning, Vietnam*, Francis Coppola's *Tucker*, Alan Rudolph's *The Moderns* and David Mamet's *Things Change*. Not that it was a year to go down in movie history anywhere in the world; and there was little to support optimism about the future European cinema. Bille August's classic literary adaptation, *Pelle the Conqueror*, and Ermanno Olmi's spiritual parable, *The Legend of the Holy Drinker*, won the top prizes at the Cannes and Venice festivals respectively, but against minimal competition.

High Hopes (opening next month) was a marvellous, wry social comedy about England here and now. The Oscar-winning cameraman Chris Menges made a striking directorial debut with *A World Apart*, a deeply-felt condemnation of apartheid.

And if Britain had achieved nothing else in the year, 1988 would be memorable for the inauguration of the Museum of the Moving Image, which (even though the best papers still cannot get the name right) is the world's most innovative and exciting museum of the performing arts. The year brought its inevitable necrology. British cinema lost the actors Trevor Howard (71), Andrew Cruickshank (80), Allan Cuthbertson (67), the regal character player Abraham Sofaer (91), and five well-loved exponents of comedy, from different generations and different schools: Mona Washbourne (84), Nat Jackley (79), Jimmy Edwards (68), Kenneth Williams (62) and Roy Kinnear (54). The German star Gert Frobe (75) was best known as the fat villain of early James Bond pictures. British directors who died during the year were the veteran partner of Michael Powell, Emeric Pressburger, and Douglas Hickox, whose films included *Entertaining Mr Sloane*. The deaths of Colleen Moore

(85), Lois Wilson (93), the exquisite Irene Rich (96) and the British designer Laurence Irving, who styled Douglas Fairbanks's epics, severed links with the golden days of Hollywood silent cinema. Hollywood also lost two legendary columnists, Sheila Graham, the peer of Hedda Hopper and Louella Parsons and the lover of Scott Fitzgerald; and Adela Rogers St John, who virtually invented Hollywood gossip writing. 70 years ago, when she was "the world's greatest girl reporter", she also dead this year were four great cameramen who gave Hollywood films their look through the '20s, '30s and '40s: Lucien Ballard (84), Hal Rosson (93), George Folsey (90) and Ted Voigtlander (75). Hollywood actors who died during the year included the cadaverous John Carradine (82), patriarch of a movie family, Ralph Meeker (67), the outrageous transsexual Divine (42) and Bonita Granville (65). John Houseman (86), writer, stage director, actor, and producer (of *Citizen Kane*, *inter alia*) was last seen on screen in *Scrooged*. Other deaths included the director Joshua Logan (79), Billy Wilder's favourite co-writer I.A.L. Diamond (67) and Frederick Loewe (86) of *Loewe and Lerner*. Hollywood also lost two of its newest faces — Heather O'Rourke (12), the little girl who was dogged by the occult through three films of the *Polygeist* cycle, and Anne Ramsey (59), who created the ferocious, gnarled and disposable matriarch of *Throw Momma From the Train*.

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BOOKS

# Having sex on the brain

Jonathan Meades reviews an impractical treatise by a practical American anatomist who knows everything and feels nothing about human sexuality

One of the few things that Dr. Gonzalez-Crussi appears not to know is the archaic French locution *je suis allé en Cornouaille*, which means I have been cuckolded; there are obvious variations such as *elle m'a fait partir en Cornouaille*. The main point is the pun on *corne*, a horn — which is the cuckold's mark (though, given the significance of ram and goat and, indeed, horn, it may seem a rum one). A secondary point, and one I doubt a fornicator, for puns are notoriously prone to being guided by homophony, is that *Cornouaille* — which may be Brittany, may be Cornwall — is, in either case, a peninsular land, somewhere far away, an *exile*. And, if we are to believe Gonzalez-Crussi, cuckoldry is a state of exile as well as a state of mythic hornedness.

Now, this exile — a banishment into paranoid secrecy and the sort of madness that Bunnell represented in *El* — is not literal; hornedness however is, or can be. There exists a syndrome of pathologic skin processes that prompt keratinous protrusions like horns. Such cancerous growths are probably caused by the psychotic jealousy associated with cuckoldry (though the genetic map when it is complete may indicate otherwise), but they are surely spurs to the adulterous infidelity that is the cause of psychotic jealousy and uxoricide. To put it bluntly, if your old man has a horn growing out of his head you may find his appeal diminished and happily consent with a *guez* fortunate enough not to suffer *cornu cutaneum*.

I don't say it's likely, but it could be that the apparently sourceless myth had its origins in actuality, in a specific instance of betrayal of the infirm. Gonzalez-Crussi does not entertain this sort of possibility, a neglect that characterizes the

most recurrent failing of his speculative essays: the erotic world he conjures is, if not an ideal, one that is curiously unallied by practice. Again, to put it bluntly or crudely, the mundane congress of the mutually attractive (or desperately colliding) seems not to be worthy of his attention. Like some sort of Platonic pornographer he forever pursues deviations from the commonplace — the happy, recreative, sometimes reproductive acts that are the only link between the variegated persons on this planet don't grab him:

ON THE NATURE OF THINGS EROTIC  
By F. Gonzalez-Crussi  
Picador, £11.95

he's interested in speciality acts, in the highbrow (and bizarrely sexless) analogues of *Five Go To Bed, Rover Gets It On With Trudi*, and so on. This man warms to extreme states but keeps them at a distance. This was a pose that worked fine in *Notes Of An Anatomist* and fairly fine in *Three Forms of Sudden Death*, where his voyeuristic aestheticism rubbed up against subjects (freaks, taxidermy, body "language", sensuality) that can, conventionally, be treated to exclusively cerebral scrutiny.

It is not necessarily a cooption of the aesthetic that he is amoral, but it helps, usually. This Hippocratic aesthetic addresses himself here, however, to a gamut of subjects that ought not to be dissociated from moral considerations. He must know this, yet he proceeds, with witting insouciance, to deal with, say, le Marquis de Sade as though that prolix loopy and his dreary *oeuvre* existed in a void, merely sufficing to the piece entitled "The Divine Marquis" an inventory of cases of institutionalized sadism, and arguing with sophisticated fastuity

that the genocidal programmes of Hitler, Kissinger, Pol Pot, etc., render abhorrence of Sade hypocritical. His aberrations are mostly, however, more modest; but they still fall other than as self-referential exercises.

There's no illumination to be found in all this opacity. He knows everything and feels very little, his sponge of a brain quite overcomes his heart. His works lack a core; they are centrifugal; but they are buttresses in search of something to support. He seems to absent himself, something that his precursor Georges Bataille was either disinclined or too sage to do. When Gonzalez-Crussi writes, "It is a formulation of today's male intelligentsia that the erotic must be opposed," he is presumptuous if he believes that he speaks for anyone but himself; though he might have more accurately represented himself had he written "evaded" rather than "opposed." And evasion is the effect of fear; love is to be feared "because it produces a state of mind that is not subject to the command and moderation of the reasoning faculty".

Gonzalez-Crussi is on the side of reason; he's also the victim of it — he allows this system of ratiocination a position of primacy in his approaches to the world. Given that what he's dealing with here is partially, as someone once said, Greek myths rubbed on to the private parts, reason is maybe not the aptest instrument. But is not this unwillingness to abandon reason also born of fear? For who knows what will happen when the brakes are released? One thing's for sure — the writer, go master how hard he may try to limit his self-licence, will have to face his own eroticism. What we have here is too much *puerum* and too little *pueritium*. He allows himself moreover



Surrealistically erotic Self-portrait with Model (*Selbstbildnis mit Modell*), by Christian Schad, 1927

to be circumscribed by another sort of evasion, that of the pre-Sadean literature that he liberally draws on — this is the source of much of his circumlocution, of his generalness.

But it's also the partial source of the most persistent tension in these essays — the collision, peculiar to this author, of a wayward (you might say wrongheaded) literary sensibility with an insatiable scientific curiosity. The two should, of course, slide out collide. The prang occurs because Gonzalez-Crussi's professional pathological nous is incompatible with what he has to glean from such a

gang of writers as Lope de Vega, Charles Baudelaire, and Walter Scott: "East is East and West is West to our part of the world, the young at heart vibrate with emotion at the prowess of medieval knights, to tales by Sir Walter Scott." They do? This assertion seems so less invidious than Scott's Middle Ages themselves. Erica Jong lead him to a conclusion that is insulting to its generalization if not its sentiment, and is odd only because of the unorthodox means by which it is reached: "Not bedding, but a relationship", is what women seek."

His gaugedly fantastical prospects for the future of the human generation is, since it has more to do with sci than fi, beguiling; he posits a oot too distant future in which, as usual, the technical capacities of medicine are pushed to their full without any thought of the consequences, and a man is cut and tucked so that he can give birth. In other words our corporeal choices will become even greater than they are today. Gonzalez-Crussi's tempered relief that he will outlive to see his grandson give birth is one of his rare sentiments with which we can for once sympathize.

# Urbane hidden shallows

James Wood

TROLLOPE AND CHARACTER  
Stephen Wall  
Faber, £17.50

If, as Henry James once complained in a review, reading Trollope is too often "like sinking into a gentle slumber", then Stephen Wall's book can claim a rare affinity with its subject: too often reading *Trollope and Character* is like dipping into gentle sedation. Worse still, Wall's interpretations of the major novels tranquilize not only the reader, but Trollope himself. All that is best about Trollope — his tightly stacked ironies, his complex manipulations of the fallible narrator, the social satire which is searching but rarely searing — is diluted or ignored in favour of a thesis that praises the "selflessness" of his art: "so unobtrusive, so completely at his characters' disposal". Above all, this book fails to address the major task of any self-respecting Trollope critic, one that Raymond Williams began in *The Country and the City*: why is he only a good writer and not a great one?

The argument of this book — reasonably plausible and unreasonably long — is that Trollope's attention to character is what is most important and most enduring about his art. Furthermore, says Wall, his novels tend to move from the public issues of the age to the private issues of the individual so that the former begins to lose importance, dissolving into the latter. These novels were "not mainly intended as works of social criticism" — it seems that Trollope must have chatted to Mr Wall about his intentions — but as studies of people.

This is arguable — one has only to think of the intensely "public" *The Warden*, with its examination of the state of the Church, and its caricatures of Carlyle and Dickens — but there is a truth here. Unfortunately, the argument's point of departure is also its destination: Wall goes no further than this banal thesis, and each new chapter is an old terminus. For a less generous critic, Trollope's fondness for the domestic density of life, his tendency to refract public and especially political themes through the private domain, might become the basis for a powerful criticism.

It is not Trollope's cardinal weakness that he is unable to fuse a critique of his age with his very real insight into characters? Always with Trollope there is the disappointment that he has not gone far enough: a character has been explored but not invaded as in Henry James; that worldliness has been satisfied but not savaged as in Dickens; that "public" ideas have been discussed but not dissected as in the George Eliot of *Middlemarch*. Characteristically, Trollope complained in his *Autobiography* of George Eliot's difficulty and lack of "ease". Trollope is certainly easier to read than Eliot — but also harder to admire.

# Horrors without guide

Andrei Navrozov

THE JOURNEY BACK FROM HELL  
By Anton Gill  
Griffin, £14.95

Two narrative strands are entwined in this absorbing, curiously distanced work. One, where the author acts as editor, cootains the voices of hundreds, speaking for themselves and for the millions who cannot speak, about the "hell" of the book's title. The other comes from the author himself, in his capacity as writer and historian, suggesting conclusions or, more often than not, drawing them for the reader. In the parlance of social science, here Mr Gill analyses the data he has collected.

The hell of the title and the ultimate source of Mr Gill's "data" is the KZ, or *Konzentrationslager*: from Theresienstadt to Treblinka and Birkenau, from the half-life of the ghetto to the half-death of Auschwitz, Nazi concentration-camp survivors from 14 countries have given him their memories. Mr Gill is everything they could have wished for in an editor: tolerant and even-handed, able to accommodate differing views, reluctant to delete what to a less sympathetic eye would have seemed irrelevant or objectionable. As a result of such sensitive treatment, these first-person narratives alone make this book worth reading.

What is life like, under the conditions of freedom, for some-

one who survived the KZ? But every story is different, and every voice is equally believable.

All the more unfortunate are the uses to which Mr Gill puts these "data" when he advances his own arguments and draws his own conclusions, especially as an historian. He describes "revisionist historians" in Germany as "those who claim either that the camps never existed, or that nobody was ever gassed in them". That the camps existed, and that people were gassed in them, is a matter of fact, not of interpretation; those who deny this can hardly be called sane, much less historians. Equally, it is the case that the label "revisionist" has been used by some historians to discredit others, by associating their interpretation of history with an obvious, absurd falsehood. Yet the sole transgression of the historians so described — one thinks of Topitsch, Nolte, Hillgruber — was their discussion of National Socialism as a "reactive" phenomenon, as a political panic precip-

itated by the growing Soviet threat. Right or wrong, a "revisionist" is what every historian ought to be, never content with clichés, independently thinking and probing. Alas, a "revisionist" Mr Gill is not.

The period of history in which Hitler's hell came into being remains, in many ways, a puzzle for many historians. The obligatory insistence in page after page of every book about the Holocaust, including this one, that "it must never happen again" is no substitute for original thought. In fact, the mere recounting of the Holocaust's horrors unintentionally helps to mythologize it, to think of it as an act of nature, to see it as destiny. Yet it was the work of man, and unless historians can explain why it happened, it will happen again. It almost happened again: in Russia in 1953, only the dictator's death averted it. It did happen again: Pol Pot's millions were buried alive.

"It won't make any difference to whether the Holocaust will happen again," says one survivor, speaking of the Holocaust museum in Washington. Similarly, what Mr Gill's oral museum lacks is an authoritative guide, able to distinguish between examples of man's inhumanity to man and history's ambiguities.

ing her celebrated father. One evening the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Walpole, was in the audience. Outraged by what he thought was a disrespectful reference to himself he "climbed onto the stage and immediately corrected the comedian with his own hands very severely". Six weeks later the new Licensing Act closed down all the London theatres except Drury Lane and Covent Garden: new plays required a licence from the Lord Chamberlain; and Charlotte's father disowned her. Fielding abandoned the theatre and Charlotte's association with both him and her father came to an end. She was "without a shilling in the universe".

She had fighting instincts, and to elude the bailiffs (having charmed one of them into giving her his official hat as a disguise) she plunged with her eight-year-old daughter and a handful of wooden puppets into the crowded lanes, taverns, and fair-grounds of Hogarth's London. When the puppet theatre failed, she became a jack-of-all trades: shopkeeper, pastry-cook, street-seller, and a strolling player in the provinces.

She cannot be said to have won the fight, but when she describes herself as "an odd mortal" who writes for "those who love to laugh" she emerges as an eccentric and a clown whose rightful place was on the stage; not perhaps overly talented, but a real trouper, who at long last has found in Fidelis Morgan a spirited defender.

# Defence of a trouper

Isabel Butterfield

THE WELL-KNOWN TROUBLE-MAKER  
By Fidelis Morgan  
& Charlotte Charke  
Faber, £19.95

as proudly "for a son instead of a daughter". Her career should have been a starchy one, and it began well, but Charlotte proved unruly, discarding her faithless husband and taking "French leave" twice from Drury Lane where her father was joint-manager. She then made the fatal mistake of joining the company of a man her father loathed, Henry Fielding. Only 23 years old at the time, she might have survived these mishaps but for bad luck from which there was small chance of recovery: the Stage Licensing Act of 1737.

This repressive law arose, directly from a performance of Fielding's *Historical Register of 1736* (an 18th-century *That Was the Week That Was*) in which Charlotte incidentally was satirized.



In Saturday's Books Page Victoria Glendinning in Heaven



Is there a man behind the montage of our icon-sources?

# Blank façade

Bryan Appleyard

PORTRAIT OF DAVID HOCKNEY  
By Peter Webb  
Chatto & Windus, £17.95

David Hockney and his paintings seem to have been staring blankly back at us for so long. The man and the work are both brightly coloured and familiar, and both are so seductively accomplished: the artist in his chosen landscape of delight, and the paintings with the unmissable excellence of their draughtsmanship and the loveliness of their colours.

Reacting against an impersonal abstraction, Hockney has produced an art of unshamed personality. "Subjective" is an almost inadequate description of the long catalogue of his travels, loves, and friends of which his *oeuvre* consists. His life appears, always, effortlessly to unfold into his art. If he pauses in a hotel room, he will draw his clothes on a chair; if he lunches, he will take snaps and produce a polaroid photomontage in which his own place card appears — "David Hockney" — as a sardonic assertion of the one eternal presence in this world. What a subject for a biography, you might think: the usual problems of relating life and work are dissolved from the moment you start. Describing the life produces a running critique of the pictures.

To fact, of course, that is just where the problems start, and Peter Webb has sadly failed to solve any of them. For the pictures only appear to include a personality. They present a resolved world of imagery and meaning, a willed order that does not live or breathe. It is easy to see the details of a life through them, but impossible to know what such a life would feel like.

Webb dutifully plays the game that Hockney has devised. The life is ploddingly mapped out in colourless and frequently gauche prose. The Hockney that emerges is, precisely, the silent, invisible inhabitant of the pictures. He works hard, he is good company, he was upset by the end of his affair with Peter Schlesinger, and

he is always anxious to explain himself. All of this we could expect. And, inevitably, from this flat yet conscientious tale of travels, houses, boyfriends, and art technique, the paintings emerge, sketched in with dates, places and people and the most superficial critical guiding hand.

More interestingly, more convincingly, Webb also sees, though without developing the point, a certain ruthless and self-promoting quality in his subject. At the Royal College of Art Hockney gave his works long titles to take up the maximum space in the catalogue, and painted large canvases to dwarf the competition. Rather lazily realized, though undoubtedly there, is also a certain casual and possibly cruel assumption that those around him exist primarily to serve himself and his art. This is hardly uncommon among artists, but it does give to Hockney a whiff of life, a reality that the remainder of this bland narrative of success lacks.

The moral may be that Hockney has, at least for the moment, preempted biography. He is too glaringly obvious as the most successful provider of contemporary icons. Amidst the pink and turquoise glow we cannot even be sure of his quality, only of his presence and of his undoubtedly dazzling sorcery. But there is a book waiting to be written. It would be about the concealment of Hockney behind the carefully fabricated mask that Webb accepts as the truth. For the moment, however, we must be content to believe he really is like that: painted to flat acrylic on transparent mylar, staring blankly back.

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TLS



INFORMATION for JANUARY

SUNDAY

1 Events: Lord Mayor of Westminster's New Year's Day Parade, London; Family Treasure Trail at Leeds Castle, Kent. Rock: Billy Bragg with the Hank Wangford Band, Hackney Empire, London. Sport: Basketball: WWC8 tournament, Crystal Palace (and 2nd). Snooker: Mercantile Credit Classic, Blackpool (to 15th). Volleyball: International women's invitation tournament, Reading (and 2nd)

8 Rock: Fairport Convention, Wimbledon Theatre, London. Events: Epiphany processions at Selby Abbey and Sheffield Cathedral; Massed Military Bands Spectacular, with the Caledonian Pipes and Ayrill Dancers, Festival Hall, London.

15 Concerts: Boulez conducts Boulez with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Barbican, London. Jazz: An evening of pre-war danceband music with The Gramophones, QEH, London. Sport: Rugby League: Silk Cut Challenge Cup, preliminary round. Events: Antiques and Collectors' Fair, Alexandra Palace, London.

22 Concerts: Lorin Maazel conducts the LSO in Mahler's Symphony No.4 and Mozart's No.41, Barbican, London. Theatre: La Cage Aux Folles - The Concert. Charity show at Poldium Theatre, London. Sport: Snooker, Benson and Hedges Masters' Tournament, Wembley Conference Centre (to 29th)

29 Concerts: The Mozart Birthday Concert, well-known chamber music by Mozart (right) performed by the Britten String Quartet, pianist Nina Mikina and clarinetist Thea King, QEH, London.

MONDAY

2 Rock: Bros, NEC, Birmingham (to 4th). Jazz: George Coleman, Ronnie Scott's, London (for two weeks). Children: The South Bank Pa-a-ry, a Cabaret for Children (two matinees). Sport: Rackets: Open singles and doubles championship, Queen's Club, London (to 8th). Squash rackets: NatWest under-19 open, Drysdale Cup, Lamb's Club, London (to 5th)

9 Concerts: "Schubertiade", a sequence of Schubert songs sung by baritone Hermann Prey, QEH, London. Jazz: Albert Mangelsdorff, Bass Clef, London (four nights). Opera: New production of Die Fledermaus, Covent Garden, London. Rock: Level 42, Wembley Arena (to 12th).

16 Rock: Bryan Ferry, Wembley Arena; Eric Clapton, Sheffield City Hall. Jazz: Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers, Ronnie Scott's, London; Blossom Dearie, Pizza on the Park, London. Galleries: Old Master Drawings from Chatsworth, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. Sport: Ice Skating: Skate Electric figure championships, NEC, Birmingham (to 22nd).

23 Rock: Big Country, Hammersmith Odeon, London (2 nights). Theatre: Black Theatre season begins at the Shaw Theatre, London (to March 31); Bob Barry, zany American mime clown, QEH, London. Jazz: Bob Wilber Big Band give world premiere of Duke Ellington's Queen's Suite, Festival Hall, London.

30 Rock: Big Country, Edgwhay, Plymouth. Jazz: Eddie Daniels, Ronnie Scott's, London (2 weeks). Sport: Snooker: European Open, Deauville, France (to Feb 11th).

TUESDAY

3 Galleries: The Anglo-Dutch Garden, Christie's, London (to Feb 3). Children: Winnie the Pooh (right), read by Alan Bennett, Lyttelton Theatre, London. Theatre: Mothers' classic Le Misanthrope adapted by Neil Bartlett, Young Vic, London (to 21st).

10 Events: Medieval week at the Thordike Theatre, Leatherhead (to 14th). Opera: Opera North's revival of The Flying Dutchman, Leeds Grand Theatre. Concert: Two concerts in one evening of young artists playing 20th-century music, Purcell Room, London.

17 Concerts: Libor Pešek conducts the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic in Schoenberg and Berg, Festival Hall, London. Dance: Makarova and Jonathan Cope star in a gala performance of Romeo and Juliet, Covent Garden, London (to Feb 4). Rock: Eric Clapton, Newcastle City Hall. Jazz: Harry Beckett, The Corner House, Newcastle.

24 Concerts: Vladimir Ashkenazy conducts the RPO in Shostakovich symphonies, Festival Hall, London. Dance: Rosemary Butcher and Dancers, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London. Jazz: Jack DeJohnette and John Surman, QEH, London. Opera: ENO in the British premiere of Lear, Coliseum, London. Children: Holiday on Ice, Wembley Arena.

31 Concerts: Jacek Kasprzyk (right) conducts the LPO in works by Elgar and Routh, Festival Hall, London. Dance: Northern Ballet in Don Quixote, Sadlers Wells Theatre, London. Rock: Big Country, Capital Theatre, Aberdeen.

WEDNESDAY

4 Children: Children's Christmas Lecture: Captain Cook's Spirit of Adventure, Royal Society of Arts, London. Events: Racing: Car Show, Olympia (to 8th). Galleries: Turner Watercolours, National Gallery of Scotland, Edinburgh (to 31st). Theatre: National Youth Music Theatre in The Tailor of Gloucester and Les Petits Rats, Sadler's Wells Theatre, London (to 28th); Cheap and Potent, theatre songs with Angela Holmes, Derby Playhouse (to 14th).

11 Theatre: Richard III, directed by Clifford Williams and starring Derek Jacobi (right), Phoenix Theatre, London. Rock: Bros, Bournemouth International Centre. Concerts: "Schubertiade", chamber music directed by Hermann Prey, QEH, London.

18 Concerts: Simon Rattle conducts a programme of Brahms, Schoenberg and Janacek, Festival Hall, London. Rock: Eric Clapton, Edinburgh Playhouse. Jazz: Scott Hamilton, Pizza Express, Soho, London (nine nights). Sport: Boxing: British heavyweight championship, Gary Mason v Trevor Currie, Albert Hall, London. Football: Littlewoods Cup fifth round.

25 Jazz: The London Ragtime Orchestra recreates the sound of orchestral ragtime and jazz from 1900 to the 1920s, QEH, London. Events: Jorvik Viking Festival, York. Sport: Athletics, indoor championships. Theatre: The Old Currier, by Alan Bennett, The Redgrave Theatre, Farnham (to Feb 11th).

31 Birthdays: 1 J.D. Salinger, 70. 2 Sir Michael Tippett, 84. 3 Victoria Principal, 44. 4 Floyd Patterson, 54. 5 King Juan Carlos of Spain, 51. 6 Rowan Atkinson, 34. 7 Gerald Durrell, 64. 8 Shirley Bassey, 52. 9 Richard Nixon, 75. 11 Arthur Scargill, 53. 12 P.W. Botha, 73. 13 Lord (Ted) Willis, 71. 14 Trevor Nunn, 49; Faye Dunaway, 48. 15 Sir John Junor, 70; Frank Bough, 56. 17 Jodi Sackson, 61. 18 David Bellamy, 56. 19 Simon Rattle, 34; Dolly Parton, 43. 20 George Burns, 93. 21 Plácido Domingo, 48; Paul Scofield, 67. 23 Lord Denning, 90. 24 Desmond Morris, 61; Nastassja Kinski, 28. 26 Eartha Kitt, 61; Stephano Grappelli, 61. 27 Sir Brian Robb, Dr Robert Guzman, 63. 28 Mikhail Gorbachev, 41; Acker Bilk, 60. 29 Germaine Greer, 50; Tony Blackburn, 46. 30 Vanessa Redgrave, 52; Gene Hackman, 58. 31 Lord Soper, 88; Dame Freya Stark, 96.

MILESTONES

ANNIVERSARIES 1 Britons over 70 drew their first weekly pension of 5 shillings (80th); Fidel Castro seized power in Cuba (30th). 2 Russia launched the first unmanned space probe (30th); Frenchman Louis Datoine took the first photograph of the moon (15th). 5 London Underground installed its first automatic ticket barrier at Stamford Brook (25th). 7 The first US national elections were held (200th). 8 Dr Herman Holerith of New York patented the world's first data-processing computer (100th). 9 First supersonic test flight of Concorde (20th). 16 The Shah of Iran fled into exile (10th). 17 In Berlin Jews were banned from being doctors, vets and pharmacists (50th). 22 Peking fell to Communist troops (40th). 24 Car manufacturers Ford launched the Capri (20th). 26 Barcelona fell to the Nationalists in the Spanish Civil War (50th). 29 Britain recognized Israel (40th). 31 Leon Trotsky was exiled from Russia (60th).

THURSDAY

5 Exhibitions: London International Boat Show, Earls Court, London (to 15th). Concerts: Sir Colin Davis conducts LSO in Beethoven and Mahler, Barbican, London. Rock: Fishbone, Town and Country, London Theatre; George Bernard Shaw double bill, Theatre Museum, London (to 29th). Events: Twelfth Night celebrations at the Victoria & Albert Museum, London, with the Baroque 'n' Roll Dance Company.

12 Rock: Darling Buds, Mayfair, Glasgow (start of tour). Sport: Badminton: England v Scotland, Diving: International tournament, Crystal Palace, London (to 15th). Theatre: The Little Foxes by Lillian Hellman, Leeds Playhouse (to Feb 4th).

19 Concerts: A Celebration of Dmitri Shostakovich - The Brodsky Quartet begin a series of all his string quartets, QEH, London. Events: Auction of a selection of paintings from the I CAN PAINT - Art of the Handicapped Child touring exhibition, Guildhall, London.

26 Galleries: Leonardo da Vinci (right), Hayward Gallery, London. Theatre: English Shakespeare Company in The Wars of the Roses, directed by Michael Bogdanov, The Old Vic, London (to March 11th).

FRIDAY

6 Films: War Requiem, Derek Jarman's visual treatment of Britten's oratorio, Cannon, Shaftesbury Avenue, London. Events: The Mozart Experience, a weekend of concerts, talks, informal recitals, readings, open rehearsals, discussions and an exhibition, at the QEH, London. Sport: Athletics: Oron Games, Cosford (and 7th). Darts: Embassy world professional championships, Friarley Green, Surrey (to 14th).

13 Rock: Bryan Ferry, NEC, Birmingham (two nights); Bros, Wembley Arena (two nights). Films: Red Heat, directed by Walter Hill, in which Arnold Schwarzenegger (right) plays a Moscow policeman, Odeon West End; Odeon Marble Arch, London.

20 News: President Ronald Reagan's term of office ends at midday and George Bush is inaugurated. Rock: Eric Clapton at Royal Albert Hall, London (nine nights). Galleries: Walter Crane at Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester. Sport: Motor Sport: Monte Carlo Rally (to 27th). Swimming: Milk in Action British Grand Prix, Southampton (to 22nd).

27 Rock: Big Country, Sheffield City Hall. Opera: Scottish Opera in Das Rheingold, Theatre Royal, Glasgow. Films: Gorillas in the Mist: the true story of Dian Fossey, starring Sigourney Weaver, directed by Michael Apted, Warner West End, London. Theatre: Tag Team, renowned comedians dall'arte company from Venice, Purcell Room, London (to 29th).

SATURDAY

7 Rock: Bros, three nights at Whitley Bay Ice Rink. Galleries: The Art of S.W. Hayter, one of the great 20th-century printmakers, Glasgow City Art Gallery. Sport: Football: FA Cup third round (and 8th); Roses men's indoor tournament, Crystal Palace (and 8th).

14 Galleries: Italian Art in the Twentieth Century, Royal Academy of Arts, London (to April 9). Rock: "Shout", an evening of artistic and political expression, ICA, London; Level 42, Edinburgh Playhouse (to 16th). Exhibition: Kent and the Glorious Revolution at Milton Chantry, near Greatstead. Sports: Racing: Ladbrokes Handicap Hurdle, Leopardstown.

21 Films: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Centenary Filmshow, Festival Hall, London. Theatre: Trestle Theatre Company masked mime show, Purcell Room, London (to 26th). Sport: Hockey: Home counties indoor tournament, men and women, Glasgow (and 22nd).

28 Galleries: The Presence of Painting (British Abstract Art since 1955), Hutton Gallery, Newcastle. Sport: Athletics: CAU Inter-Counties cross-country championships, Derby; Fencing: Challenge Martini, men's foil international, Paris (and 29th); Football: FA Cup fourth round (and 29th); Rugby League: Silk Cut Challenge Cup, first round (and 29th). Rock: Big Country, Newcastle City Hall.

CHARADES DAY FOUR. For a little fun over Christmas week, The Times has devised Charades, a simple daily game to test your knowledge of the arts. This is the fourth part of the quiz. There are four questions a day - and for five winners there will be a case of Moët & Chandon Brut Imperial.

1983 champagne, worth £186, delivered to the door. The quiz ends on Saturday, when the questions will be repeated and details of how to enter will be given. For now, just fill in the answers, cut them out and keep them. Answers to the Books, Theatre and Pop Music questions will be names of characters. The answer to the Cinema question will be the name of a film.

TREASURE Mary did not know how to love him; but London audiences packed the theatre to see him for more than 3,000 performances.

POP MUSIC The well-respected owner of an amazing dancing plantigrade mammal.

BOOKS His knowledge of literature, philosophy, and astronomy was nil; his knowledge of sensational literature was immense; he played the violin well...

CINEMA The film in which a music conductor expires on the Lido for the plague with his mascara running down his cheeks. The music was by Mahler.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1757. ACROSS: 1 Chief Egyptian port (10), 8 General (7), 9 Horde (5), 10 Lack of difficulty (4), 11 Cook's yellow powder (8), 12 Purchaser (5), 14 At no time (5), 16 Royal states (8), 19 Vessel bow (4), 21 Automaton (15), 22 Diners' cloth (7), 23 Backward look (10). DOWN: 1 General pardon (7), 2 Deserve (4), 3 Trappings (11), 4 Record in detail (8), 5 Bring on oneself (11), 6 Material fever (4), 7 Cloth merchant (6), 12 Carnivore (8), 13 Bread, cake shop (6), 15 Judgment (7), 17 Magnanimous (5), 19 Clever (4), 20 Nursery rhyme collector (4).

WORD-WATCHING LAUDA (b) Literally "brake"; a mechanical device for stopping a train, or an ancestor of opera that grew from a fusion between Italian and French. It was the only kind of religious observance the only known master of the lauda was Jacopone da Todi (c. 1230 to 1306). (c) An Elizabethan after-piece, given in the smaller public theatres. It consisted of rhymed dialogue, usually on the fruits of woman, young and decreed to existing lines by three or four characters, of whom the clown was always one. (d) Alice Delysia (1889-1979) French actress and singer, who made her first appearance at the Alhambra in Paris in 1903 in the character of The Belle of New York. Went on to become one of C.B. Cochran's stars. (e) GUGENOT (b) The name of a French puppet which originated in Lyons, probably in the last years of the 18th century, and may have been invented by puppet master saint Laurent Moreyot, gaining native honour on to Poulchérie.

WINNING MOVE By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent. The above position is taken from the game between Hertzke (White) and Kraak (Black), played in Potsdam this year. White, to move, wins. The winning move will be given in tomorrow's Times. Solution to yesterday's position: Black wins with 1 Bxg2+

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA. LES MISÉRABLES. THE SECRET OF HERLOCK HOLMES. THE SECRET OF HERLOCK HOLMES. THE SECRET OF HERLOCK HOLMES.

ART GALLERIES. CINEMAS. THE SECRET OF HERLOCK HOLMES.

ENTERTAINMENTS. OPERA & BALLET. THEATRICALS. THEATRICALS.

ENTERTAINMENTS. THEATRICALS. THEATRICALS.

ENTERTAINMENTS. THEATRICALS. THEATRICALS.

ENTERTAINMENTS. THEATRICALS. THEATRICALS.

ENTERTAINMENTS. THEATRICALS. THEATRICALS.



TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Jane Rackham

BBC1

0 Ceefax AM. 0 Kirtwood and Brown in Photo Phoria (TV). 6.55 Weather. 0 Breakfast Time with John Stapleton and Jeremy Paxman. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25; regional news and travel reports at 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27. 0 The Flintstones (r). 8.55 Regional news and weather. 0 News and weather followed by Now It's Christmas presented by Simon Parkin begins with Boats Cat (r). 9.30 Why Don't You...? Ideas for young people at a... Ideas for young people at a... 0 News and weather followed by Popeye. Three cartoons (r). 10.30 Playbus 10.55 Five to Sixteen. Frank Thornton with a reading. News and weather followed by Rolf Harris: Carpool Time featuring Rolf Harris, Tony and Jerry and Betty Bop 11.30 Superman starring George Faeves. 0 News and weather followed by The Garden Party. In the first of two programmes Viv Lumsden and Eamonn Holmes review highlights from the Glasgow International Garden Festival 12.55 Regional news and weather. 0 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather 1.15 Neighbours. Desi covers that fatherhood is a threat to his wedded bliss. 1.40 Hollywood Quiz presented by Anne Greig with Kathy Taylor and Bill Buckley. The guests are Simon Bates, Roy Castle, Keith Chegwin and Lesley Joy. 0 Film: Ship Deck (1968) starring Christopher Reeve and Andrew Keir. Drama about the captain of a Spanish privateer who takes advantage of the Cornish villagers who think that his crippled ship is part of a victorious Spanish Armada. Directed by Don Sharp. 2.30 Tom and Jerry Festival Triple Bill 3.50 Yoga's Treasure Hunt 4.10 Charlie Brown 4.35 Bowditch. Tony Robinson and Toyah Wilcox with a rhythmic account of the life of the warrior queen. 5.05 Blue Peter Review of the Year (Ceefax) 5.35 Neighbours (r). 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Philip Hayton and Andrew Harvey 6.30 London Plus and weather. 7.00 Bros Special. The group in concert and on tour (r). 7.30 EastEnders. Brad is tailed by the police. (Ceefax) 8.00 You Rang, M'Lord? A Jimmy Perry/David Croft comedy starring Paul Shane, Su Pollard, Jeffrey Holland, Donald Hewlett and Michael Knowles. The Hon. Teddy Meltrum employs Alf and Jim, two ex-soldiers who saved his life in the trenches during the First World War, as butler and footman at his Chelsea home. (Ceefax) 9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. Regional news and weather. 9.30 Yes, Prime Minister. Jim Hacker is faced with the knotty problem of an inner London borough council leader who is threatening to withhold funds from the police and ban them from council property (r). (Ceefax) 10.00 David Dimbleby's Review of 1988. The year's highlights and lowlights. 11.15 World Championship Dancing. The 1988 World Latin American championships introduced by Angela Rippon from the WestEnd. 12.00 Film: Only Angels Have Wings (1939, b/w) starring Cary Grant, Jean Arthur and Rita Hayworth. Drama about the owner of a small airline in a remote South American banana port with the contract to deliver mail, who has to struggle with old aircraft and bad weather. Directed by Howard Hawks. 1.58am Weather.

ITV/LONDON

8.00 TV-am begins with The Morning Programme, introduced by Lorraine Kelly; 7.00 Good Morning Britain presented by Lorraine Kelly and Mike Morris; 9.00 Wecadey with Timmy Mallet. 9.25 The White Seal. Animated version of a story from Kipling's Jungle Book (r). 8.55 Thames news and weather. 10.00 Ghost Stories from the Pickwick Papers. Animated versions of The Ghost in the Wardrobe; The Mall Coach Ghosts; and The Goblin and the Gravelogger 10.55 News headlines. 11.00 Run the Gauntlet. The second of three days of adventure sports competition between teams representing Great Britain, the United States, the Netherlands and Australia. Presented by Martin Shaw (r). 11.25 Thames news and weather. 12.00 Mr & Mrs. Game show for Michael Buerk, Derek Batsy and Donna Myers 12.30 A Country Practice. Medical drama series set in a remote Australian sheep township. 1.00 News at One with John Suchet. 1.20 Thames news and weather. 1.30 Film: Jason and the Argonauts (1963) starring Todd Armstrong and Neva Paolozzi. Adventure yarn based on the Greek legend about the young man who travels on the Argo in search of the Golden Fleece and gains the kingdom which is rightfully his. Directed by Don Chaffey. 2.25 News and weather. 2.30 Sons and Daughters. Australian family drama serial. 4.00 Cartoon Time 4.10 Film: Not on Sunday. A comedy of the year's religious news by Brian Redhead and Sue Jay. 2.20 An award-winning documentary about a small British boy whose parents say he needs spectacles but whose parents believe they are too expensive and are unnecessary. Narrated by Veronica Hyls. 5.18 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz game. 5.45 News with Alastair Stewart. 6.00 Thames news and weather. 6.30 Emeraldale Farm. It's moving day for Jackie and Kathy. 7.00 The British and the Oscars. Peter Ustinov narrates a celebratory British film awards ceremony. 8.00 The Bill. Detective-constable Dashwood deals with a case that sees the last person in charge of it to a psychiatric hospital. (Oracle) 8.30 Celebrity Wheel of Fortune with Nicky Campbell and Angela Ekaeta. 9.00 Film: Gremlins (1984) starring Zach Galligan, Phoebe Cates and Hoyt Axton. A comic nightmare film about a teenager's pet which spawns a legion of vicious, violent creatures that turn a picture postcard town into a hell. Directed by Joe Dante. (Oracle) (continues after the news) 10.00 News at Ten with Sandy Gail. 10.15 Thames news and weather. 10.30 Film: Gremlins continued. 11.20 Roger Rabbit and the Secrets of Toontown. In praise of the technology that integrates real-life actors and cartoon characters for the film Who Framed Roger Rabbit among others. 12.20 Film: National Lampoon's Class Reunion (1982) starring Garry Shandling and Michael Lerner. Comedy about a high school reunion which is disrupted by the attendance of a psychotic killer. Directed by Michael Miller. 0.00 Five Stars. Mean the Lines. Highlights of a recorded live night at Wembley Arena. 3.00 Film: Murder by Decree (1978) starring Christopher Plummer, James Mason and Genevieve Buckle. Thriller in which the redoubtable Sherlock Holmes pits his formidable wits against Dr. Moriarty. Directed by Bob Clark. 5.00 ITN Morning News. Ends 6.00.

Nudge nudge, itch itch

TELEVISION REVIEW

Last week BBC1 gave us an unseasonal, if most welcome, gift, that classic film of high summer married-man madness, The Seven Year Itch. Last night they offered us as theatre a more seasonal, suburban housewife's 17-year itch. Alas, the extra 10 years of marital bliss seems only to have dissipated dramatic inspiration. Indeed, that the woman was itching through the last shopping days of Christmas was the only possible explanation why we had to suffer a plastic lame duck of a "comedy play" so soon after enjoying a real swan of a film.



Liza Goddard: Wonder Woman not Monroe with few alterations for television. The emphasis of gesture and speech needed to arouse coach-loads of slumberers in the stalls appears more strained in close-up video. Tom Ewell trying to kiss Monroe while playing "Chopsticks" may have been up to things scarcely less farcical than Cooney when dropping his trousers for a bungled attempt at love-making with his wife in the music of The Dumbsters, but with a style that was not so painfully obvious in its struggle to raise a laugh.

It did not take long to spot the difference in quality between the two works - no longer than their titles. "You've got to soup up the title," was the secret of Tom Ewell's success as the cheap paperback publisher (he called "Little Women: The Secrets of a Girl's Dormitory") in The Seven Year Itch, which boasts one of the great titles of American cinema - real vodka-laced consommé. Wife Begins At 40 has the comic delicacy of a tin of condensed dumpling broth. Indeed, the greatest verbal invention shown by the triumvirate of authors was to be found in their names - Arne Sulzhan, Earl Barrett and Ray Cooney.

"Women are like laws. Treat them lovingly and you can walk over them," went one of their more subtle offerings. Liza Goddard (despite many qualities and a stage entry in a Wonder Woman costume, no Monroe) may have been doing the itching because of the low libido of her husband (played by Cooney himself), but the humour was the outrageous of the male her room comic bore. It was administered with a heavy elbow: wasatory jokes, both verbal and visual, an adulterous affair with a barmaid during a husband's "poker nights" and so on.

The heaviness of touch was not helped by the fact that Wife Begins at 40 is a stage play which was recorded in front of a live audience.

The first programme in the series about Rastafarians, One Love (Channel 4), had some great drumming but only those already intimate with Rasta ways, not to say speech, could have grasped more than a vague, biblically apocryphic, pacifist message from the brief verbal contributions. There was no outsider with received pronunciation or opinions to explain to the ignorant why the participants were worshipping a dead diminutive Ethiopian emperor.

Andrew Hislop

BBC2

0 Ceefax. 0 Film: The Man in the White Suit (1951, b/w) starring Alec Guinness as man who develops a cloth that never gets dirty or wears out, and is surprised when no one shows any interest in the material. Directed by Alexander Mackendrick. (Ceefax) Edinburgh Military Tattoo 1988. Highlights (r). 2.30 The Kwis Are Coming. A sheep-shearing competition on Eborac (r). News and weather followed by Showreel 88. Tony Robinson with another selection of works by amateur film and video makers. 3.40 News, regional news and weather. 3.50 Women of Our Century. Dame Janet Vaughan (r). (Ceefax) The 1988 Royal Institution Christmas Lectures. Professor Gareth Roberts with the second lecture of the subject of "The Home of the Future". Jack High. Action from the Woodwich Masters Bowls Tournament from Worthing. 6.00 Film: To Have and Have Not (1944, b/w) starring Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall. Drama about an American working on Martinique at the time of the fall of France who turns down an offer to work for the French underground but is then forced to reconsider his decision. Directed by Howard Hawks. 7.35 Lady Be Good. (see Choice) 8.30 The Travel Show Guides The good and bad sides of Tenerife. 9.00 Street Stories. (Ceefax) (see Choice) 9.30 Prisoners of Conscience update. 10.00 Film: One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (1975) starring Jack Nicholson and Louise Fletcher. Nicholson, in an Oscar-winning role, stars as McMurphy, the inmate of a state mental hospital with a hatred for authority. Directed by Miles Forman. (Ceefax) 12.05am Weather. 12.10 INXS: In Search of Excellence. The Australian rock group in concert (r). Ends at 12.55.

CHANNEL 4

9.30 Sesame Street. Pre-school learning series. The guest is Sid Caesar. 10.30 Flight of the Wind Horse. A documentary following the flight of two high altitude balloons over Kathmandu and the foothills of the Himalayas to Everest (r). 11.30 Street Footy from Leicester. 12.00 Table Tennis. Live Test series between England and China. 1.00 Film: Sherlock Junior (1924, b/w) starring Buster Keaton. Comedy silent starring a projectorist who sees himself as the hero of the film he is showing. Directed by Roscoe Arbuckle and Buster Keaton. 1.50 Not on Sunday. A comedy of the year's religious news by Brian Redhead and Sue Jay. 2.20 As Long as He Can Count Cows. An award-winning documentary about a small British boy whose parents say he needs spectacles but whose parents believe they are too expensive and are unnecessary. Narrated by Veronica Hyls. 2.55 Anne of Green Gables - The Sequel. Concluding part (r). 5.15 One Love. The second of three programmes on Rastafarians and their faith. 6.00 Faerie Tale Theatre starring Robin Williams as The Frog Prince. (Oracle) 7.00 Channel 4 News with Nicholas Jones and Anne Fernald. 7.50 Comment followed by Weather. 8.00 A Different World. American high school comedy. 8.30 Brookside. Frank Rogers learns that the driver sacked on Christmas Day may have been smuggling. (Oracle) 9.00 A Very British Coup. Drama starring Ray McAnally, based on the political novel by Chris Mullin (r). 11.50 Film: M (1931, b/w) starring Peter Lorre. Thriller set in Berlin, about a killer of little girls. Directed by Fritz Lang. 1.50 Film: The Verdict (1984). A gangster, deported from the United States, is arrested in Britain for a murder committed 20 years earlier. Directed by David Eady. Ends at 2.55.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Lady Be Good (BBC2, 7.35pm) is an engaging trip down memory lane with Ivy Benson and her all-girl band which for 40 years functioned almost alone in a male stronghold, and in the teeth of much prejudice, but at the same time provided many males with their partners for life. Ivy Benson was (and happily still is) a tough Yorkshirewoman who saw no reason why her sex should not provide a dance band every bit as good as the male outfits that had rejected her. In the 1930s, decades before women's lib, it was a bold idea and some established dance band leaders, notably Billy Tipton, recoiled in horror. Ivy was helped by the Second World War, which thinned the ranks of male musicians and made Ivy and her girls a terrific favourite with the forces. This popularity was double-edged for having melted the hearts of tough commandos or worldly-wise GIs, the girls proceeded to quit the band and marry them and left Ivy with awkward gaps to fill. Romances blossomed in the most unpromising places, like an RAF base in Ruislip. Ivy's own two marriages failed, the casualties of a musical impresario's itinerant life, and her girls became the substitutes for the children she was not able to have. Successfully adapting to the demands of fashion, the band kept going for more than 40 years and was not dissolved until 1980. Ivy lives in retire-



Ivy Benson: one of the forces' favourites (BBC2, 7.35pm) in Clacton, where she keeps her hand in getting OAPs to join her in a rendering of "Lily of Laguna". Narrated by Sicilia Tracy, a former member of the band, Lady Be Good is a lively anthology of reminiscence, supported by nostalgic black-and-white footage of Ivy and her girls in action.

RADIO CHOICE

Woman's Hour (Radio 4, 2.00pm), probing the changing nature of childhood, discovers with no surprise that it is much as it always was, give or take the odd injection of popular culture. For example: playground songsters used to have fun with "London Bridge is Falling Down". Now, it is more likely to be "My Name is Elvis Presley/Girls are sitting in a bar and drinking Pepsi/Having babies, getting married/Nudge, nudge". There is no such thing as a perfect childhood. There never was. It is memory that fools us into thinking that it was endless fun in the sun. How perceptive of Woman's Hour to remind us that the young, just like grown-ups, have always had worries. They might have been updated to take in the breaking up of the ozone layer, fear of nuclear war, and what might happen if the television blows up; but the old worries persist: too parents dying or breaking up; is there a tiger under the bed? and what is it that lives down the loo?

Street Stories (BBC2, 9.00pm) is a disquieting documentary by Louise Panton about the vast army of people, estimated at anything between 3,000 to 5,000, who sleep rough in London. Sixty years after George Orwell lived among the capital's down and out, little seems to have changed. Social security for all has failed to guarantee roofs over heads. These people have to make do with coats, blankets and cardboard boxes. They range from pregnant teenagers to men in their sixties. It is a bleak and often violent existence, though not without its grim camaraderie.

Peter Waymark

Peter Davalle



Ratched (Louise Fletcher) accuses Kandle P. McMurphy (Jack Nicholson) of disrupting hospital life (BBC2, 10.00pm)

BBC1 WALES: 6.30pm-7.00 Wales Today 7.55am-8.00 News and weather. 8.00am-8.30am News and weather. 8.30am-9.00am News and weather. 9.00am-9.30am News and weather. 9.30am-10.00am News and weather. 10.00am-10.30am News and weather. 10.30am-11.00am News and weather. 11.00am-11.30am News and weather. 11.30am-12.00am News and weather. 12.00am-12.30am News and weather. 12.30am-1.00am News and weather. 1.00am-1.30am News and weather. 1.30am-2.00am News and weather. 2.00am-2.30am News and weather. 2.30am-3.00am News and weather. 3.00am-3.30am News and weather. 3.30am-4.00am News and weather. 4.00am-4.30am News and weather. 4.30am-5.00am News and weather. 5.00am-5.30am News and weather. 5.30am-6.00am News and weather. 6.00am-6.30am News and weather. 6.30am-7.00am News and weather. 7.00am-7.30am News and weather. 7.30am-8.00am News and weather. 8.00am-8.30am News and weather. 8.30am-9.00am News and weather. 9.00am-9.30am News and weather. 9.30am-10.00am News and weather. 10.00am-10.30am News and 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News and weather. 6.00am-6.30am



# MacGregor draws tighter rules to make eggs safer

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Mr John MacGregor, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, is to increase his department's measures to tackle the problem of salmonella in eggs. He is to stiffen the voluntary codes of practice for poultry breeders and egg producers, introduced earlier this month with statutory powers.

In addition, a complex code of practice is being prepared for feeding stuffs, he has told Tory MPs. Part of that will be mandatory, with detailed monitoring of raw materials and the end product, and subject to "rigorous enforcement".

MPs are expecting a ban on feeding chickens with processed chicken carcasses and feathers. Controls on imported proteins are being strengthened and the Diseases of Animals (Animal Protein) Order will be strengthened.

On breeding flocks, legislation will require all breeders and hatchery owners to maintain good hygienic standards. There will be special reserve powers to be used when an outbreak occurs. Mr Mac-

Gregor said yesterday: "There are areas of the codes of conduct to which it might be sensible to give statutory backing. We are looking at that now. The important thing was to get the codes of conduct into action quickly".

For commercial egg-laying flocks, the ministry is considering extending the scope of the Zoonoses Order, 1975, to require notification when salmonella organisms are found in animal feeding stuffs and where the poultry live.

Mr MacGregor will in the next few days receive the report of a joint working party set up by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Public Health Laboratory Service and the eggs industry to consider what further research should be conducted in salmonella. Rapid decisions will be taken on any further studies to be conducted as a result.

Meanwhile a major ministerial campaign will be launched early in the new year on food hygiene in the home. It has already been tested in five towns.

# Riding through the winter sunshine



The Queen and Prince Edward went riding in the Sandringham countryside in Norfolk yesterday wearing contrasting headgear. The Queen wore a floral head scarf while the prince chose a hard riding hat. Meanwhile, Prince William and Prince Harry went for pony-rides in the winter sunshine.

# Quake ordeal of mother and child

Continued from page 1  
Gayaney, still wearing a heavy winter sweater, and ran to the door. As she opened it the floor opened under their feet and the 36-unit apartment building collapsed.

Susanna, Gayaney and Karine fell into the basement, with the nine-story building crumbling around them. Though trapped on her back in the dark, Susanna eventually found a jar of blackberry jam that had fallen to the basement from Karine's pantry. On the second day, when Karine succumbed, she gave the entire jar to Gayaney to eat.

Hoping to attract attention, Susanna screamed: "Help, we're dying of hunger, my daughter's dying of thirst!" But she thought no one outside their prison heard them.

She found a skirt and made a bed for Gayaney. Despite the bitter cold, she took off her

Sakharov mission.....7 stockings and wrapped them around her daughter.

As the days passed, and Gayaney's pleas for something to drink became more pressing, her mother remembered a television programme about an explorer in the Arctic who was dying of thirst. "His comrade slashed open his hand and gave his friend his blood."

Susanna does not know what day she cut open her fingers, or how many times she gave them to her daughter to suck.

Her thoughts wandered. She hallucinated. "When I closed my eyes and opened them again, I could see boxes full of apples and bottles of lemonade," Susanna remembers. "I told my daughter: 'My child, there are so many things to eat and drink.' But when I reached out to touch them, they were gone."

Gayaney cried that she wanted to go home. "I want to be back in my bed again, and see my daddy," she said.

"I lost all hope," Susanna said. "I was just waiting for death."

On Dec. 14, the eight day of their captivity, Soviet rescue workers opened a small hole that let a shaft of light into their prison. "We're saved!" Susanna remembers crying.

Mother and daughter were airlifted to hospital in Yerevan 60 miles away.

For four days, the little girl was in intensive care, hooked up to intravenous bottles that dripped glucose, albumen and other liquids into her body. Susanna, also dehydrated, was put on intravenous fluids and placed in a coffin-like box so that pressurized oxygen could be pumped around her as a treatment against exposure. It was then that hospital staff discovered that Susanna, who also has a 7-year-old son who was not hurt in the earthquake, is two months' pregnant.

Gayaney is still weak and has a light case of pneumonia. But she has started to talk again and to smile.

# Bomb did cause Lockerbie disaster

Continued from page 1

of their aircraft, caused a disaster.

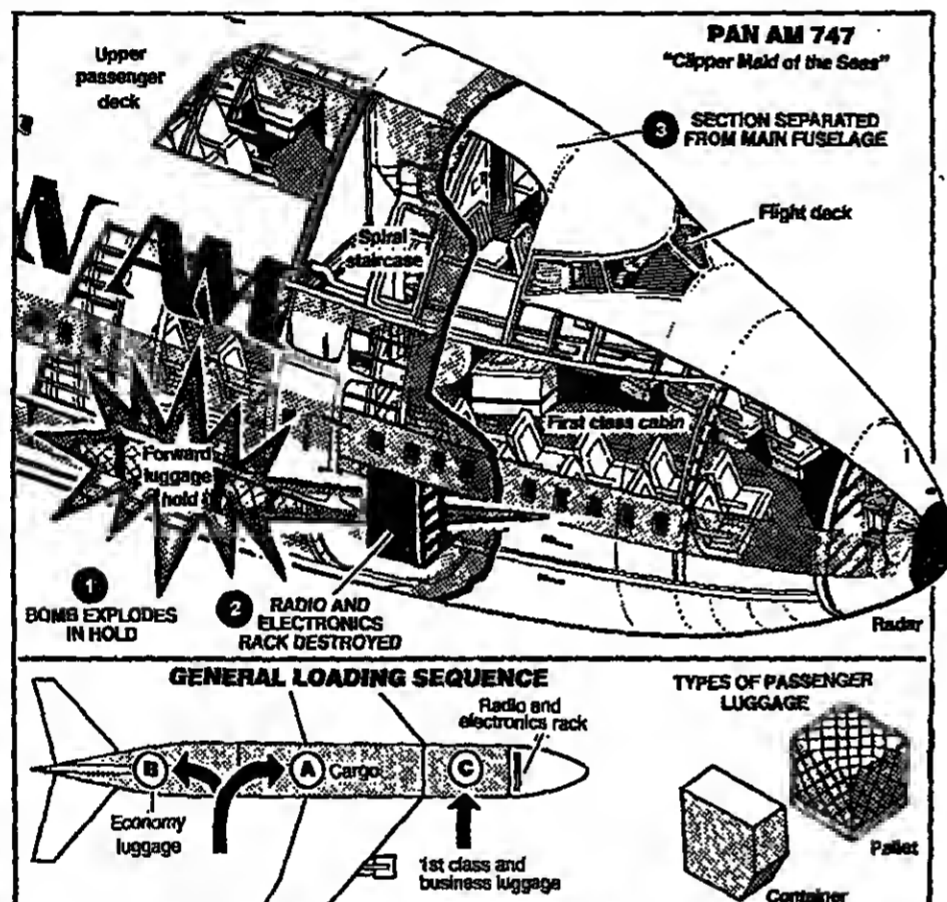
For nearly a week airlines have been worried that crash investigators would be unable to trace evidence confirming a bomb theory and that instead the finger of suspicion would point to structural failure.

Most big airlines had already cleared maintenance hangers ready to take Boeing 747s for immediate inspection. Others, anxious to satisfy the enormous number of passengers who use the jumbos daily, had scoured the world for other wide-bodied aircraft, such as the McDonnell Douglas DC-10 to replace the 747s in their fleet.

But yesterday, within minutes of the formal announcement that the disaster had, in fact, been caused by a bomb, they had cancelled all their contingency plans and begun to concentrate on improving security arrangements at airports.

Airline chiefs were astonished last night that a single suitcase of explosives could cause such a devastating explosion to rip an aircraft apart. They had always assumed that any bomb on board such a large and apparently strong aircraft as a 747 could be contained, at least to the extent that it would enable the pilot to control his aircraft.

Now they fear that terrorists may have been schooled in exactly where to place a bomb and what its effects would be.



If, as now seems almost certain, it was in the forward baggage hold, it was probably loaded as part of the first-class or business-class luggage. Pan Am, in common with other airlines, is anxious to ensure that its first-class passengers get their bags first on arrival and load it either in containers or in open pallets covered in netting. The compartment into which it is then put, however, is immediately adjacent to the main electronics bay into which the entire electrical system of the aircraft is fed before being distributed around the controls and the flight recorders. An explosion there would knock out the electronics immediately and, as is now known, cause the break up of the aircraft in flight.

# Kremlin eases travel curbs

Continued from page 1

United States and Canada, has been openly unenthusiastic about the proposed 1991 human rights conference since Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, proposed it 25 months ago at the opening of the Vienna review of the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The review is now in its closing stages, with Washington anxious to conclude it by January 20, when the Bush Administration takes over. The Austrian hosts have suggested a meeting of Foreign Ministers from January 17-19. Soviet delegates made it clear that they would not take no for an answer over the human rights conference, meaning that the review would continue until the West accepted. Although Moscow later appeared to soften this stance in

public statements, Western diplomatic sources say nothing appears to have changed.

The Americans set a price for their acceptance by demanding that Moscow should release all political prisoners and end the misuse of psychiatric institutions. Moscow has made what all acknowledge to be some progress towards the American conditions. Diplomatic sources believe Washington will accept it if it can extract a few more concessions.

But the Conference requires unanimity, not a majority vote. A positive decision by Washington would raise the stakes for Britain and Canada, which are still unconvinced.

In theory any participating country could reject the human rights conference and prevent the Vienna review from ending, but London and Ottawa will be Moscow's

main burden. A favourable decision would set the stage for a successful visit by President Gorbachov, who is likely to come to Britain in late January after postponing a December trip because of the Armenian earthquake. But it would be seen in most quarters as a British endorsement of recent improvements in Moscow's human rights record.

A negative decision, which at present looks more likely, would take some of the bloom off the Anglo-Soviet relationship. Mrs Thatcher's talks with Mr Gorbachov would be dominated by human rights differences. But many other nations would be displeased, because much hangs on the Vienna review. Until it ends, a new forum for talks on cutting East-West conventional forces in Europe, the Conventional Stability Talks, cannot begin.

# US fuels fears of cereals trade war

Continued from page 1

unfortunate dispute to start the year.

"We've been trying to avoid this. It's regrettable when we have much bigger issues of agricultural policy to solve on the international scale, but at the moment we don't seem to be able to see a way through."

What worries Mr MacGregor and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, is the likely effect on efforts to

sort out a more sensible world agricultural system, reducing subsidies and protectionism in the interests of taxpayers in the industrialized world and producers in the Third World. Intensive efforts are being made to get the Gatt talks on agriculture back on the rails by July.

Mr MacGregor is aware that, after this year's drought, the Americans are putting back into production large

tracts of agricultural land which were set aside in special schemes. They could be tempted to bring into production more still and, in a trade war, disrupt world grain markets.

PARIS: M Jacques Delors, the president of the EEC Commission, denounced the US tariff retaliation as "an inadmissible intrusion" into the right of every country to decide how to protect the health of its citizens.

# THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,865

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-30 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS
1 Bear away the flag (8).
5 Black tar round a rock (6).
10 Lavender jelly (5).
11 "Keep ye the law - be swift in all..." (Kipling) (9).
12 Ken cooed, Ken glowed (9).
13 An uncertain poet (5).
14 Therein possibly lies the opposite of both (7).
16 Army rejects dull brown jacket (6).
19 An American lawyer includes information in the programme (6).
21 One making a hole for a sleeper? (7).
23 Fool around near the gorge (5).
25 Cronus almost consumed a lot of dripping (9).
27 Fort for Michael, say (9).
28 Expect to be a singer (5).
29 The man breaks into a song (5).
30 Farmer's punch (8).
DOWN
1 Start of pling for a top boxer? (8).
2 Sanctioning copying out of a book (9).
3 Illegitimate Claud is of aristocratic stock (5).
4 Instrument has a note missing so send for another (7).
6 Can be transferred by foreign sailor to the French (9).
7 Both! The public address system won't start (5).
8 French is doubled up with fever caused by this fly (6).
9 Not so long ago soldiers had little money (6).
15 Passes fish - sign that a deal has been agreed (9).
17 Crack rate problem by gambling here? (9).
18 Councillor supported by journalist who needs paying (8).
20 Specify when writing on the wall. (6).
21 Kneecap Irishman seen with a girl (7).
22 Bleat about Grandma's fruit (6).
24 Kirk's in the rising river - this vessel may save him (5).
26 State actual figure (5).

# WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?
THEATRICALS
LAUDA
a. A Scottish comedian
b. Medieval Italian drama
c. A Roman satirical play
JIG
a. An understudy
b. A stage trap-door
c. An after-play
DELYSIA
a. Greek mystery plays
b. French actress and singer
c. A Marlowe heroine
GUGNOL
a. Melodrama
b. A French puppet
c. A tragic mask

Solution to Puzzle No 17,864. A crossword grid with the words filled in.

# WEATHER

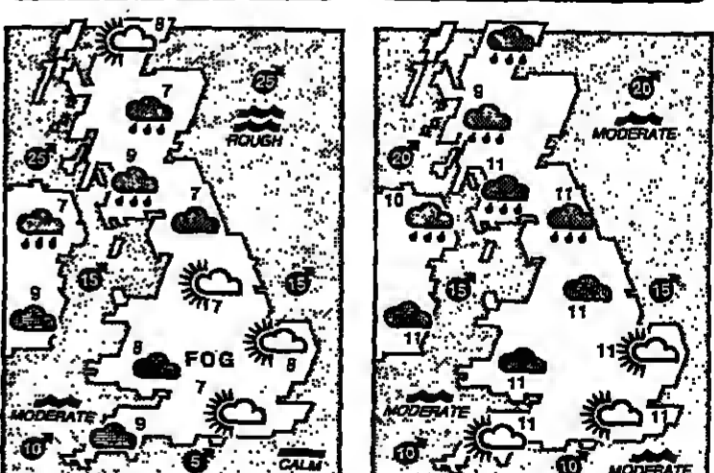
Britain will remain generally rather cloudy and mild. It will be dry over England and Wales, after patchy mist or fog, with sunny spells, especially in the east. Some coastal and hilly areas in the west may have drizzle at times. Most of Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Borders will be cloudy with rain, some of it heavy. Outlook: little change, but becoming slightly colder. Some rain at times over Scotland.

Table with columns for 'ABROAD' and 'AROUND BRITAIN'. It lists weather forecasts for various countries and regions, including temperature ranges and conditions like 'sunny', 'cloudy', or 'rain'.

# HIGH TIDES

Table listing high tide times for various locations. Columns include 'TODAY', 'AM', 'PM', and 'HT'. Locations listed include London Bridge, Aberdeen, Avonmouth, Cardiff, Devonport, Plymouth, Glasgow, Liverpool, Newcastle, Southampton, and others.

# AM PM



# YESTERDAY LONDON

Table showing weather data for London yesterday, including temperature ranges and conditions for different parts of the city.

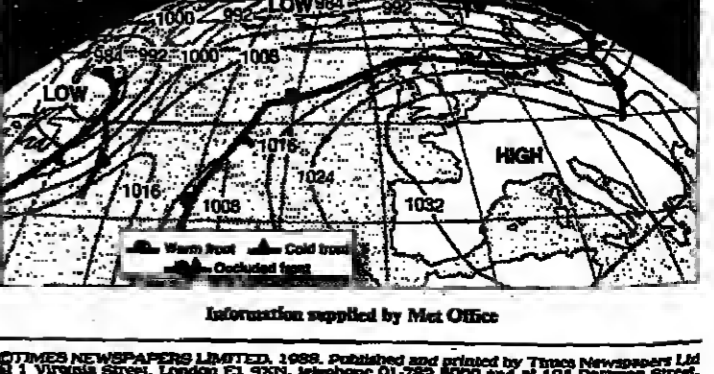
# HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table showing the highest and lowest temperatures recorded in various parts of the UK yesterday.

# MANCHESTER

Table showing weather data for Manchester, including temperature ranges and conditions.

# NOON TODAY



VarW... mortgage rate offer

ST... 1000

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MARKETS	THE POUND
FT 30 Share 1447.1 (+10.9)	US dollar 1.7885 (-0.0120)
FT-SE 100 1787.7 (+13.7)	W German mark 3.1996 (+0.0010)
USM (Datastream) 146.82 (+0.41)	Trade-weighted 77.3 (-0.1)

THURSDAY DECEMBER 29 1988

Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

### NatWest mortgage rate offer

National Westminster Bank is offering mortgages fixed at 12.75 per cent for two years. It has £200 million available for the fixed-rate mortgages which must be either endowment or pension mortgages for £30,000 or more.

Existing endowment or pension policies will be accepted but new ones must be taken out through NatWest Insurance Services, which gives independent advice.

There is an arrangement fee of £100, and anyone wanting to switch out of the fixed rate within two years must pay a redemption charge of two months interest.

Existing NatWest customers cannot switch to the fixed rate mortgage unless they move. The current NatWest mortgage rate is 12.75 per cent but that is bound to rise early in the new year.

### Oil fluctuates

The world oil price moved dramatically upwards following the weekend shutdown of three North Sea oil fields, but dropped sharply when it was announced that Saudi Arabia is producing well in excess of the agreed Opec quota. Brent crude rose a dollar a barrel in Far Eastern markets, but ended the day only 10 cents up at \$15.55.

### STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2161.25 (-1.43)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	30158.00 (+108.07)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	2696.44 (+39.85)
Amsterdam	Gen	287.9 (+1.5)
Sydney	AO	1487.0 (+2.9)
Frankfurt	Commerzbank	1654.0 (-10.3)
Brussels	General	5534.4 (+23.4)
Paris	CAC	4127 (+0.5)
Zurich	SIKA Gen	521.8 (+2.1)
London	FT-A All-Share	922.51 (+8.99)
FT-100	1005.55 (+1.86)	
FT Gold Mines	164.8 (+1.3)	
FT Fixed Interest	98.13 (+0.43)	
FT Govt Secs	87.30 (-0.16)	

### MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	Body Shop	502 1/2p (+13p)
GUS A	985p (+10p)	
Amplife	167 1/2p (+10p)	
Capital Radio	494 1/2p (+29p)	
T1	384 1/2p (+11p)	
MB Group	255 1/2p (+8p)	
Reuters	512 1/2p (+13p)	
RHM	347 1/2p (+9p)	
Lorndo	345p (+5p)	
Wm Collins A	683 1/2p (+3p)	
Rotmans B	428p (+10p)	
Eurotunnel Units	47 1/2p (+28p)	
GKN	292 1/2p (+12 1/2p)	
BOC	521 1/2p (+10p)	
MEPC	529 1/2p (+10p)	

FALLS:	Avon Rubber	589 1/2p (-11p)
D&S Simpson A	605 1/2p (-10p)	
Volax	963p (-7p)	
Macro 4	229 1/2p (-7p)	
Sema Group	288 1/2p (-7p)	

### INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base:	13%
3-month interbank:	13-12 1/2%
3-month eligible bills:	12 1/2-12%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate:	10 1/2%
Federal Funds:	9 1/2%
3-month Treasury Bills:	8.35-8.34%
30-year bonds:	9 1/2-10 1/2%

### CURRENCIES

London:	New York	£1.7885
DM:	DM1.7895	
SwF:	SwF2.1025	
FF:	FF1.1075	
Yen:	Yen125.50	
Index:	Index95.0	
ECU:	ECU20.64942	
SDR:	SDR En/a	

### GOLD

London Fixing:	AM \$413.85 pm \$412.85
close:	\$413.00-413.50 (231.25-231.75)
New York:	Comex \$413.50-414.00

### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Feb) pm \$15.55 bbl (\$15.10)  
\* Denotes latest trading price

### THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

0898 141 147

Market news on Stock-watch yesterday included: Internationals were higher with Glaxo (01414) 14p to the good, ICI (01348) 7p higher and Jaguar (01127) 4p firmer. Stores traded higher with the post-Christmas sales spree, Body Shop (01435) gaining 5p and Next (02674) 4p. Builders and property stocks were also firmer despite gloomy forecasts and George Wimpey (02127) was 4p up and Laing (08240) 2p up.

● Calls charged 5p for 8 seconds peak, 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.

# Nikkei record paves way for further rises

By Rodney Lord and Joe Joseph

The Tokyo stock market ended the year's trading yesterday at a record, flaunting its confidence and giving Wall Street and London a clue about where it intends to pick up when dealing resumes on January 4. The Nikkei index rose 108.07 points in a half-day session to close at 30,158.

Securities analysts, blind to the doubts that make other stock markets flinch, predict that prices in Tokyo will climb a further 20 per cent next year.

In London, with two days' dealing to go before New Year, prices edged up in very thin trading. The FT-SE index closed 13.7 higher at 1,787.7.

Prices made an encouraging start to the new trading account and showed few signs of the traditional post-Christmas lethargy. Many dealers and investors extended their seasonal break. But those who chose to make the journey into work were able to again draw strength from last Friday's trade figures.

However, conditions were pitifully thin with less than 200 million shares recorded on the Stock Exchange's computerized trading system.

But in the gilt-edged market traders were gloomier about the economy and prices finished down by 1/4-1/2. The market adversely reassessed the November trade figures. Although in line with expectations, these showed the third highest deficit ever.

Today's weekly bank return

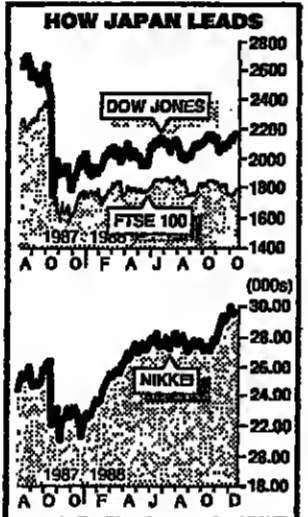
of notes and coin in circulation will be eagerly awaited for information on the economy. It is expected to indicate growth in the narrow measure of the money supply this month of about 7 1/2 per cent, against 7.9 per cent last month.

In foreign exchange markets the dollar rose in thin trading as companies with dollar interests organized their holdings for the year-end.

Mr Nigel Richardson of Warburgs said: "The rise was due to end-of-term book squaring."

However, the US currency came off its highs after Bundesbank director Herr Leonhard Gieske said the dollar's strong rise to nearly DM1.80 did not suit the bank. The Bundesbank had intervened to hold the rate down.

The dollar closed 1.25 pfen-



nigs higher at DM1.7890 and rose ¥0.9 to ¥125.50.

Sterling was slightly weaker, falling 1.20 cents to \$1.7885 but rising 10 points to DM3.1996. The effective exchange rate index fell 0.1 to 77.3.

Reaction to the change of finance minister in Japan was muted. Traders noted that the new minister, Mr Tatsuji Murayama, had already reaffirmed his commitment to the principle of exchange rate stability embodied in the Louve accord.

Officials, however, said the command of English and robust Anglo-Saxon attitude to debate of Mr Murayama's predecessor, Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, would be missed at Group of Seven meetings.

Mr Murayama's attitude to an early meeting of the G7 is not yet known. But yesterday the Governor of the Bank of Japan, Mr Satoshi Sumita, said he saw little point in a meeting given the current stability of the dollar.

The Bush administration is keen on an early meeting, perhaps in February, at which it can demonstrate its commitment to dollar stability. West Germany and France also favour an early meeting because of their concern about the slow progress on reducing America's budget and trade deficits.

The Tokyo stock market has comfortably absorbed the shock of the 1987 crash - the Nikkei index has risen 40 per cent over the past year.

Comment, page 23

## Cash injections rescue seven US thrift banks

By Our City Staff

Struggling savings and loans institutions in the US have been given a breathing space with three separate deals to rescue seven banks.

The biggest deal involves a \$315 million (£175 million) injection into five insolvent Texan thrift banks by the government providing \$5 billion aid over 10 years.

The investment group, MacAndrews & Forbes Holding, is headed by Mr Ronald Percelman, the financier and takeover specialist who is the head of Revlon, the cosmetics company.

It includes Mr Gerald Ford of Dallas and his Ford Bank Group.

The banks have total assets of more than \$12 billion and

132 offices between them. They are the First Texas Savings Association, with \$3.2 billion in assets; the Gibraltar Savings Association of Houston, with \$6.3 billion; the Home Savings and Loan Association of Houston, with \$568 million; the Killen Savings and Loan Association of Killen, with \$256 million, and the Montford Federal Savings and Loan Association of Dallas, with \$1.8 billion.

The \$315 million investment is the largest capital infusion by any acquirer under the Bank Board's southern plan to bail out insolvent thrifts in Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma.

The Robert M Bass Group is investing an initial \$350

million in cash to acquire American Savings of Stockton, California, and will add at least \$150 million more within three years.

The deal, to save the second largest thrift bank in the US, with assets of \$30.1 billion, is a revised version of a proposed rescue announced in September. The Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corp will provide an estimated \$1.7 billion.

American Savings' assets are being transferred to two new, federally-chartered stock institutions.

Barnett Banks Inc said it acquired First Federal Savings and Loan of Columbus and its First Columbus Services Corp unit for undisclosed terms.

## Talks pledge on H&W deal

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Detailed discussions are planned by the Department of Economic Development in Northern Ireland to speed a decision on a management and employee buyout of the loss-making Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast.

A formal bid for the yard, which is in public ownership, has gone to the Department from a buyout team in the form of an outline proposal.

A Department spokesman said "much detailed work" needed to be completed before a decision could be reached. The bid is thought to value the

yard at about £6 million. One issue is expected to be how far the Government will be prepared to write off accumulated losses at Harland, which has received £485 million of public money since 1975, an annual subsidy of £15,000 per job.

During the same period the workforce has fallen from 9,500 to just under 3,700.

There is still possibly one other bidder for Harland as the Department has been talking to executives of Bulk Transport Shipping, which is London-based, about a pos-

sible acquisition of the yard. Bulk has plans for building up to four oil tankers and because of its size the Harland yard could readily cope with the work.

Whether the buyout team will prompt the Bulk team into further action is not clear. Mr Eddie Pollock, Bulk's chief executive, was unavailable for comment yesterday.

The formal buyout bid was lodged at the beginning of the Christmas weekend according to Mr John Parker, who is the chairman of Harland and Wolff.

### Six months to repay £95m of American Express loan

## Kelt bid for Carless unconditional

By David Young  
Energy Correspondent

The £208 million bid by Kelt Energy for Carless, the UK independent oil company which was the first producer of commercial petrol, was yesterday declared wholly unconditional.

Kelt now has six months to pay £95 million of the £199 million loan it raised from American Express to pay for the bid, with the remainder paid within 12 months.

The process of selling off the Carless downstream assets which is necessary to pay for the bid has started.

Mr Alistair Locke, the Kelt deputy chairman, said that a flood of offers has come in for the assets it had signalled would be on sale.

The final move in the takeover battle came last Friday when the Department of Energy said that, subject to Kelt meeting some minor conditions, the exploration and production licences held by Carless would be transferred to Kelt. The Department was yesterday given

formal assurances by Kelt that it sought. Carless effectively went on the takeover block in September when it announced an agreed merger with Ryan International, the Welsh-based independent coal producer which put a £286 million value on the combined company.

Carless had not fully secured the approval of its main shareholder London Merchant Securities, which held 27.5 per cent of its shares. LMS was among the first to accept the Kelt terms when they were announced a month later.

At the time, several leading institutional shareholders voiced their dissatisfaction at the Carless-Ryan merger.

Since then Kelt and Carless have been involved in a bitter dispute - Ryan has faced problems and is now likely to be the subject of a management buyout - which has involved severe criticism by Carless of the highly leveraged nature of the Kelt bid. Kelt had made no secret of its disdain for the Carless management and its own plans to sell-off some of the downstream assets to pay for the bid.

Carless has a large slice of the specialized solvents market and it supplies its own chain of petrol stations with petrol produced as a by-product of its high technology refining operations. It produces naphtha-based lubricants, printing inks and liquefied petroleum gas.

It sells its petrol through a chain of 550 filling stations under the Anglo, Bulldog, Enerco and Quest brands on a supply-only basis. The freeholds of the sites are held by garage owners, and the chain is unlikely to provide Kelt with enough to pay off outstanding loans to American Express, Carless loans to National Westminster and capital gains tax liabilities.

Carless had also moved into the power generation business and has been planning to install gas turbines at its Humby Grove oilfield in Hampshire to burn gas from the field and feed power into the local low-voltage system operated by Southern Electricity.

Repsol, the Spanish state oil company has expressed an interest in the Carless petrol refining and marketing operation.

## Virani back three years after stake sale

JAMES MORGAN



'Best deal' since his arrival in Britain: Nazam Virani, head of Control Securities, announcing the acquisition yesterday

## Control in £7.5m Belhaven purchase

By Cliff Feltham

Control Securities, Mr Nazam Virani's property and leisure group, is taking over Belhaven Brewery in a £7.5 million deal - three years after selling its stake in the business for £28 million.

Mr Virani, who was expelled from Uganda 17 years ago, said: "I consider this the best deal I have done since I arrived in this country."

His company is buying the Scottish brewery, 41 public houses and an hotel in Spain for shares worth £7.5 million and swallowing £10.5 million of bank borrowings.

Control, which has been keen to build up its leisure division, owns 200 pubs and hopes to operate at least 500 within the next 18 months.

The deal represents yet another change of ownership for Belhaven, based at Dundee, East Lothian. Three years ago Mr Virani, who had acquired a 29 per cent stake, came under pressure to choose between his brewing ambitions and his property company, Control.

His stake was picked up by Mr Raymond Miquel, the former head of Arthur Bell, the Scotch whisky group, for £28 million. He streamlined the company before acquiring the Garfunke's restaurant chain, headed by Messrs Philip and Reggie Kaye.

But after a boardroom dispute Mr Miquel left in September and the Kayes have decided to concentrate on their 112-strong restaurant chain.

Mr Virani, who says Belhaven is only operating at 25 per cent of 100,000 barrels a year capacity, believes he can double the output by selling into his existing chain of pubs.

This should enable him to swiftly improve profits of the brewery division. It made £914,000 in the nine months to the end of last year, but fell back sharply to £217,000 in the first half of this year.

The three-star, 235 bedroom Belpaya Hotel at Torremolinos in Spain is profitable, however, turning in profits of £434,000 at the end of 1987.

## Iceland poised to win £240m bid battle for Bejam

By Colin Campbell

Iceland Frozen Foods is poised to claim victory in its £240 million bid battle for frozen food retailer Bejam, well ahead of tomorrow's formal closing deadline.

Clearance of late Christmas post, and additional share purchases in the stock market yesterday while the Bejam share price remained below the bid, took Iceland through the 50 per cent mark by early afternoon.

Ahead of the Christmas stock market closure, Iceland held at least 49.5 per cent of Bejam, and its hand was further strengthened by the sale of 760,000 Bejam shares held by the Prudential Corporation.

The bid battle has been of particular significance because of the determined opposition put up by Mr John Aphorop, the founder and chairman of Bejam, who, together with family interests, holds 30 per cent of Bejam. Iceland has

had, therefore, to win more than 71 per cent acceptances from the remaining shareholders of Bejam in order to take control.

Iceland's bid terms were 41 shares plus 60 new convertible preference shares for every 100 Bejam shares. There was an underwritten partial cash alternative, equivalent to 67 per cent of the consideration available under the offer, which closed last week.

Iceland shares yesterday traded at an unchanged 310p. Bejam's shares were up 6p at 172p. The all-shares bid, assuming a valuation of 97p for each preference share offered, valued each Bejam share at 185.3p.

NM Rothschild & Son, Iceland's merchant bankers, were yesterday double-checking all acceptances received, and are expected to make a formal announcement of acceptances soon, and certainly before the week-end.

## Tate ends year with £44m deal in Spain

By Graham Searjeant  
Financial Editor

Tate & Lyle has ended a record year of acquisitions and disposals with a £44 million deal to gain virtually complete control of Campo Ebro, the Spanish corn sweetener and starch group.

Amylum, the Belgian end of the Cereal Science and Technology group (CST), in which Tate has a 63 per cent stake, already owned 48 per cent of Campo Ebro. It has now agreed to buy a further 48.9 per cent from two Spanish banks.

Campo Ebro's profits rose from £7.1 million to £8.9 million in 1987, and are forecast to have risen further this year.

CST became the T&L group's vehicle for cereal-based sweetener interests in Europe following its takeover of Staley, the US group. It also owns Tunnel in the UK, ZBB in the Netherlands and 51 per cent of a Greek sweetener producer.

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THE TIMES

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Leucadia's £68m bid for Cambrian closes

The fate of Cambrian & General Securities, the British investment trust which was once the vehicle of Ivan Boesky, will be clearer today after the £68 million cash bid from Leucadia National Corporation, a US group, closed yesterday.

Boddington to buy Liquid

Boddington Group is buying Liquid Assets, an independent distributor of wine, spirits, beer and minerals to the free trade in Britain.

Epicure cash purchase

Epicure is buying Industriale, a specialist manufacturer of piston rings and valve seats for marine diesel engines, for about £878,000 in cash.

GrandMet acquisition

Grand Metropolitan has acquired the Portuguese drinks company, Sileno, for an undisclosed sum. Senhor Jorge Avillez, Sileno's founder, will remain as managing director.

Dewhurst Dent decline

Dewhurst Dent, the Bolton glove, boot and clothing maker, is predicting substantially lower profits this year because of a mild winter and a downturn in the dress market.

Full status for Tokai

Japan's Tokai Bank has won full member status at the largest US futures exchange, the Chicago Board of Trade.

Peek to sell Blundell

Peek, the electronics and technology group, is selling its British formed parts manufacturing offshoot, A Blundell, to David Blundell, a grandson of the founder and a former director of Duhalier International.

TEMPUS REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Boring was beautiful for the safety-first investors of '88

Caution was the key to investment this year. Our average portfolio rise was 12%, comfortably beating the FT All Share index

There has been little to cheer about in 1988, except possibly the fact that it is almost over. The FT All Share index has barely moved, and even after collecting their dividends, amounting to an average current gross yield of 4.8 per cent, many investors will be nursing losses.

Few had particularly high hopes for the market at the beginning of the year - most investors were too shell-shocked by the worldwide stock market crash of 1987. The crash also conditioned our strategy at the beginning of 1988 for the selection of five stocks to outperform in the following 12 months.

We deliberately erred on the side of caution, recognizing that most investors would want to keep a higher than normal proportion of their portfolio in cash until the outlook became more favourable. Worried about the US deficit, we avoided stocks with exposure to the dollar, seeking instead a high yield, fast profits growth or takeover prospect.

At the time, our selection looked, at best, boring. But last year, boring was beautiful. Our average portfolio rise was 12 per cent over the past 12 months, comfortably outperforming the index.

British Gas

Last October's Monopolies and Mergers Commission report was considerably worse than expected. Some 30 per cent of British Gas's total volumes, principally sales to industrial and commercial users, could be hit, with a consequent detrimental effect on profitability.

The net effect on the shares has been a significant underperformance. In the second half, offsetting the strong first-half performance. Compared with the start of 1987, the fully-paid shares have dropped 3 per cent after adjusting for the final 40p instalment, leaving them at a 30 per cent discount to the market.

Wilson Bowden

The buoyant housebuilding market has hardly paused for breath, and nor has the performance of our housebuilding choice for 1988, Wilson Bowden.

A comparative newcomer to the market - it was floated in March 1987 - Wilson Bowden shares rose 35 per cent last year, making it our best performing stock. Yet its forecast profits performance suggests there is still steam behind the shares, despite the anticipated impact of higher interest rates on home buyers.

After more than doubling its pre-tax profits to £17.7 million last year, a repeat performance to about £37 million is expected this year. The group will achieve this level of profits while still managing to reduce its gearing to about 10 per cent, while its land bank is large enough to last for the



Generous dividend: Sir Denis Rooke, British Gas chairman

next four years at current rates of building. Wilson Bowden has the further advantage of having its main activities outside the frothy housing market of the South-east, being concentrated in the Midlands and the South-west where there is still considerable potential for catching up with London house prices. Even after last year's performance, the prospective price earnings multiple of 5.5 looks positively mean, and fully discounts the worries surrounding the sector.

However, the high yield, above-average prospect for dividend growth, strong balance sheet and low exposure to the troubled US insurance market gave us confidence that GRE would weather these difficulties.

In the event, we have been rewarded with a 10 per cent jump in the share price, yet the shares still do not seem unduly expensive. At a forecast yield of 7.2 per cent, the long-

term prospects still look attractive, with the added spice of the possibility of a bid.

Clyde

Our worst performing choice, Clyde Petroleum, lost 87 per cent last year to close at 9p.

In a year which has seen some of the long expected rationalization among the independent oil companies, we recommended Clyde as a possible takeover target, given the attractions of its Wyth Farm oilfield development in Dorset.

Indeed, by mid-year, Clyde was our best performing selection, having risen by 28 per cent to 135p. We recommended then that investors take some profits. Bid speculation has since subsided, and worries about the weakening oil price have dominated sentiment.

Last month, Clyde bought the oil assets of Newmont Mining, giving it a broader base and the prospect of future additions to cash flow. However it paid a very full price, and in the absence of a bid, or any drilling excitement, the shares are likely to remain dull performers in the near term.

Land Securities

Land Securities continues to live up to its reputation as the quality stock in the property sector and investors will not be disappointed with their 16 per cent rise in the share price over the past 12 months.

Analysts are looking for a 20 per cent jump in net assets to at least \$00p when the results for 1988 are announced, at a significant premium to the current 53p share price.

The group is cautious about the outlook for profits growth over the next few years, slowing to perhaps 10 per cent a year as it uses up cash balances on a significant investment programme. However, dividends are expected to increase at a much faster rate, and the shares still look good value for the longer term.

GRE

Worries about the extent of insurance claims in the aftermath of the storms in October

GAINERS AND LOSERS

Table with columns: Share, Price Dec 87, Price Dec 88, Rise %

WALL STREET

Little change for Dow in slow early trading

New York (Reuters) - Wall Street stocks showed little overall change, including the blue chips. Brokers said most market players had ceased trading for the year and day traders found few manoeuvres to make. They added that firm bonds gave a sound tone to the market.

The Dow Jones industrial average was moving narrowly around its Tuesday close of 2,162.68 points. In early trading the average was up 0.71 points at 2,163.39, with advancing shares equaled by declining issues.

Whittaker Corporation was the most active issue, gaining 4% to 51c. It said it is considering indications of interest from third parties for its acquisition.

Hong Kong - Year-end window-dressing pushed Hong Kong stocks sharply higher in the first day of trading after the Christmas break, share analysts said. The Hang Seng index climbed 39.84 points to close at 2,696.44 and the broader-based Hong Kong 77 index firmed 25.46 to 1,776.26.

Sydney - The All-Ordinaries index closed up 2.9 points at 1,487.0, the All-Industrials index rose 3.9 to 2,472.1, the All Resources index 2.1 to 749.7 and the gold index 9.2 to 1476.4. About 56 million shares were traded.

Table of stock prices for various companies like AMR, ASA, Astra, etc.

STOCK MARKET

Shares stage technical rally as City dealers extend the break

City streets were deserted with many dealers deciding to extend the four-day Christmas holiday but share prices opened the new account on a cheerful note.

End-year book squaring by institutions and market-makers helped promote a technical rally which left some optimists hoping that the new year could see a sustained recovery.

Last Friday's news of the narrowing of the British trade deficit to £1.6 billion in November, from October's record £2.43 billion, remained fresh in the mind and encouraged buyers to dip their toes in to those sectors which have been depressed of late.

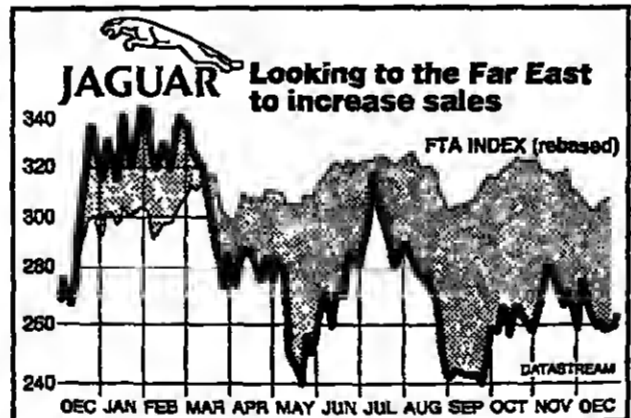
Properties, hit by high interest rates and job losses in the securities industry, staged a good recovery, while stocks, Europe and other overseas markets.

Volume remained modest with only 198.4 million shares traded. Nevertheless, the FT-SE 100 index closed at its best of 1,787.7, a rise of 13.7 points, while the narrower FT 30 share index ended 10.9 points higher at 1,447.1.

Gifts drifted lower in sympathy with currency fluctuations and closed with falls ranging to 5%.

Jaguar, the luxury car manufacturer, rose 4p to 262p on news of a record-breaking performance on the assembly line this year which saw it pass 50,000 for the first time.

It may account for recent takeover speculation that has surrounded the shares. However, with the Government



Total output of cars reached 51,939 - a rise of 8 per cent on 1987.

The company said the figures were achieved by outstanding sales in Britain, Europe and other overseas markets.

But the collapse in the US - its biggest overseas market - continues to take its toll on profits. Last year pre-tax profits fell from £120.8 million to £97 million owing to the problems in the US, collapse of the dollar and development costs for the new XJ series.

City analysts have warned the worst is not over. They are forecasting that profits this time around will tumble to £40 million followed by £30 million in 1989.

Storehouse rose 4p to 195.5p on a turnover of 1.5 million shares after news that Sir Terence Conran, the chair-

man, had rejected an offer to meet Mr Asher Edelman, the US corporate raider, who has built up a 5.24 per cent stake.

Mr Edelman wants to meet Sir Terence for talks. There is talk that Mr Edelman has sounded out high street names like Woolworth, Burton and Sears, to see if they would be interested in supporting a bid for Storehouse.

Mr David Rowland, head of Inoco, Mr Tony Clegg, chairman of Mountleigh, and Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, own stakes of about 4 per cent.

Sir Terence could again find himself fighting off a predator for the third time in two years. He rejected a 435p a share offer from Mr Clegg before the crash, and staved off an audacious offer from Bonlox.

Next advanced 4p to 139p as almost 3 million shares changed hands amid revived speculation that Sears, flush with cash from the sale of the £331 million sale of its William Hill betting shops to Grand Metropolitan, will launch a bid.

There are claims Next would make a perfect fit for Sears with its Grattan mail order business fitting neatly with Sears' Fremans operation. Analysts believe that if Sears does not move, someone else will. Mr David Jones, the new chief executive of Next, following the boardroom coup which saw Mr George Davies, the founder and chairman, ousted, still has to convince the City that his management can be effective without the flair of Mr Davies.

Elsewhere, Boots hardened 4p to 230p. Great Universal Stores "A" gained 10p to 965p. Marks and Spencer firmed 2p to 152p. Rabbits added 4p to 169p. Sears advanced 4p to 111p and Woolworth appreciated 3p to 230p.

Stories that Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch foods-to-detergents group, is about to launch a \$90 a share bid for American Brands, the Benson & Hedges cigarettes, Jim Beam whisky and office equipment producer, were treated with a pinch of salt. Unilever finished 6p higher at 455p.

Analysts have been bracing themselves for Unilever to make a sizeable acquisition but rule out American Brands.

Michael Clark and Geoffrey Foster

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Large table of financial data including LONDON TRADED OPTIONS, RECENT ISSUES, ALPHA STOCKS, and TRADITIONAL OPTIONS.



Gas and nuclear power the fuels of the future says report

# Oil sails into troubled waters

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Oil will lose its dominant role in the British energy market, as nuclear power increases its market share, according to County NatWest WoodMac, the broker, in its annual UK Energy Outlook.

In a detailed analysis of the likely pattern of UK energy supply and use the broker predicts that, while there is little likelihood of another oil crisis, the price of oil should start to rise again soon.

The result of this will be that oil will become progressively less attractive as a source of

energy. "Two of the most dramatic expectations are a considerable increase in the industrial sales of electricity to the public system and the rapid establishment of gas as a source of fuel for electricity generation after 1990," the report says.

"We continue to believe that nuclear power will expand its share of the market for fuel for electricity generation."

County NatWest adds that over the very long term - up to the year 2010 - it expects

oil to suffer a considerable erosion of its remaining share of the energy market, although it should retain its dominant position in the market for transport fuels.

"This outlook may become complicated if relative oil price increases and technology improvements result in gas becoming a competitive transport fuel, perhaps through conversion into gasoline," the report says.

County NatWest says it expects that gas will expand its share of the UK market until

the end of the century, but its market penetration could then be affected by a shortage of supplies.

"By then the UK will probably have a significant import requirement, and the international price of liquefied natural gas will probably become the determining factor," it says.

"The world has a greater capacity and reserve base in natural gas than for oil, so it is a reasonable assumption that gas will remain competitive."

The broker also predicts

that the privatization of the power industry could eventually lead to competition in supplies to the area distribution boards.

The report adds that even coal could take a share of the market already held by oil. "The use of solid fuel by customers is gradually eroding, but may stabilize as oil usage intensifies its decline."

"Over the very long term most alternative sources of energy are likely to gain at oil's expense in all markets other than that for transport fuels."

## City banks drop £1bn Soviet credit plan

By Colin Narborough

Plans for a £1 billion credit package assembled by City banks to help fund Soviet economic reform have been dropped and Moscow has instead signed individual accords with the banks that were to have participated.

A spokesman for Morgan Grenfell, which last week signed an agreement rolling over its open-ended credit arrangement with the Russians, said the decision to drop the facility did not mean that less funds would be available. Moscow Narodny Bank and Bank of Scotland have signed similar credit agreements.

Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet president, forced to abort a visit to Britain in early December because of the Armenian earthquake, is now likely to come to London in late January.

The visit will provide an opportunity for both sides to discuss boosting bilateral trade. Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr Gorbachov are committed to a target of 40 per cent growth by 1990. Early demands could be made on the credit lines now in place.

The initial package, which enjoyed the Government's public support, had been focused on lending in certain areas of trade. The individual deals will not be restricted in this way.

Midland Bank, which acted as unofficial co-ordinator over the package, has renewed its £250 million credit line for the Soviet Union. Lloyds Bank and Barclays Bank have signed similar deals.

While some banks said the decision to drop the package deal had come in response to approaches from the Soviet side, others said there had always been a considerable amount of resistance from the big banks to being "packaged".

The innovative multi-currency £1 billion facility, at commercial interest rates and backed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department, was announced at the end of October, during Anglo-Soviet trade talks in London.

It was to have been finalized shortly afterwards but completion appears to have been held back by the original visit by Mr Gorbachov.

Objections raised in Washington, and to some extent in London, are believed to have helped cool City enthusiasm for credit packaging.



Down by the riverside: Michael Hoffman, who is to be Thames Water's first chief executive, at Kew Bridge yesterday

## Bond man to run Thames Water

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Mr Michael Hoffman, who has been chief executive of Mr Alan Bond's Airship Industries, takes over the executive reins at Thames Water from New Year's Day as the authority readies itself for privatization towards the end of 1989.

His watchword will be growth, to be achieved in various ways, from improved efficiency to property development, with acquisitions also pencilled in as a possibility.

The appointment of a private sector industrialist as the first chief executive of Thames signals a number of changes at the authority under the chairmanship of Mr Roy Watts. Mr Hoffman is an engineer with top executive experience at a number of

companies including the former Babcock International and Perkins Engines, which later became part of Massey Ferguson. Mr Hoffman will subsequently become group managing director of a privatized Thames as well as its chief executive.

He was headhunted by Ian Ashworth & Associates, the management consultant, which was given the brief of finding a top industrialist who could successfully convert Thames from a "fairly dull" public sector organization into one with the right blend of enthusiasm and skills.

Mr Hoffman said: "We have to become more customer orientated - a lot of them anyway will become shareholders. We must also become more process ori-

entated in finding the most efficient way to supply water, particularly in cleaning it."

The demand for higher water standards will mean higher prices but these will "probably be far less in a private environment than they would have been in a public one," Mr Hoffman said.

Emerging techniques for treating dirty water could mean that water treatment would, in time, be less land intensive, allowing Thames to capitalize on some of its land.

The authority is one of the leaders in clean and dirty water technology and there will be a drive to bring in more consultancy work from abroad, Mr Hoffman said. He expects to take advantage of the Thames name because "it

is straightaway an international brand."

He will be faced with the problem that water authorities typically show a growth of only 1 per cent compound a year, Mr Hoffman said.

"In a drive for maximizing earnings per share there should be more growth in the business," he said. This was why improvements in processing, the development of enterprise activities such as the consultancy, extending plumbing services and developing the right sort of property schemes were important.

There could also be growth through acquisition, he added. That could mean taking over other water authorities, in Britain or abroad, and acquisitions in linked activities such as construction.

## COMMENT

# Buyers still queue up in land of confidence

The contrast between strident confidence on the Tokyo stock market and extreme caution in London has become even more stark at the year end. Share dealers in Japan were making a mark on their last trading day of the year. Having willed the Nikkei index back up through 30,000, they were buying for the New Year.

The economy is doing better than any other leading industrial country, there are few inflation worries, the threat of the rising yen has been vanquished and savings are still pouring into shares. No matter that shares seem so much more expensive than elsewhere, even allowing for different accounting conventions.

In London, by contrast, analysts have been saying for many months how cheap shares are, as profits have grown rapidly against static share prices. But few dare to predict that value will attract a rush of bargain hunters.

Confidence is a wonderful thing. Japanese investors expect to make money and even the worst stock-market linked scandals for many a year do not seem to have dented their buoyancy. When things looked tough, the government mobilized Japan Inc and adjusted the rules to soften any nasty shocks.

In the United States and Britain, confidence has never recovered from the October 1987 crash and small investors no longer see the stock market, as a sure-fire moneymaker. In Britain,

the government's attitude to the timing of its assets sales - notably BP and British Steel - has given the health of the stock market the lowest priority.

Underpinning Japanese confidence, however, is the weight of money. Tokyo is awash with funds. Personal savings remain high while interest rates are low. Moreover, liberalization and changes in tax rules have diverted savings from traditional bank and Post Office deposits into shares.

In Britain and the United States, high interest rates are chasing low savings. In Britain, in particular, pension fund holidays have exacerbated the dearth of net savings.

But even in Tokyo, shares go down as well as up. The index charts show that prices are finding it harder to keep up the pace. In two of the past three years, prices have on average risen by more than a third. Even in 1987, the crash still left prices up more than a fifth. It is noticeable that even Tokyo's New Year optimists are only aiming at a 20 per cent gain in 1989.

If recent experience is a guide, the first four months will be crucial, since that is when the main gains were registered in each of the past three years. Although Emperor Hirohito's final departure would surely cause a respectful lull, that is what the locals are evidently hoping for again. But the spring may prove to be the autumn of Tokyo's great bull market.

## BTR: a stock for all seasons

The City's lengthy love affair with BTR and other well-managed conglomerates has been regaining some of its ardour lately after a couple of severe setbacks. The first, a bruising rejection of the BTR bid for Pilkington, was read in the Square Mile as an end to the easy days of growth by acquisition. In view of the bare knuckled scrap between Hanson and Imperial group the jury was already sitting in judgement on the assumption that institutions would for ever be prepared to give the nod to aggressive takeovers by a chosen few who had proved adept at the art.

The second blow to the ratings of conglomerates came in the heady days before Black Monday, when narrowly focused companies in growth markets grabbed fund managers' attention.

But over the past year conglomerates, as a group, have outperformed the market generally and a number of their long-standing virtues have returned to favour. High calibre management, well diversified businesses and the ability to show excellent trading progress in the more conservative environment which followed the crash are again in demand.

BTR, in particular, has shown that there is a great deal to life after Pilkington. Yesterday's \$200 million (£111.82 million) purchase of Schlegel is

the type of "infill" purchase that strengthens the group's market position, usually yields higher returns post the BTR management treatment and comes more cheaply than the mega-deal.

That is not to say that the spectacular deal is a thing of the past. BTR has been looking closely at half a dozen potential targets which would fit well. So far only one, the £240 million purchase of Rockwell's metering division, has come up to scratch.

The focus for expansion by large-scale acquisition has shifted elsewhere. BTR has allowed its 62 per cent-owned Australian subsidiary BTR-Nylex its head. The £600 million purchase of ACL, Australia's 20th largest company, and the New Zealand group Feltrax for £340 million have boosted considerably BTR's pacific rim exposure.

Meantime, throughout the group, the now legendary obsessions with cost control and margin improvement appear to have lost none of their effectiveness. BZV sees profits of £785 million for the current year and £950 million next time. Earnings per share look set for 22 per cent growth this year and a figure in the high teens next time. At 293p, selling for less than nine times 1989 earnings per share, and with the support of a prospective 6 per cent yield, BTR shares once again have the look of a stock for all seasons.

## Pavilion Leisure buys hotel in £9.1m deal

By Michael Tate

Share dealings in Pavilion Leisure, the Glasgow theatre proprietor, were suspended at 11.2p yesterday as the company unveiled the £9.1 million acquisition of Hawkstone Park Hotel, Shropshire in a move that sees Mr Nadir Lalani of Europa Hotels move in as deputy chairman.

The vendor is Farpeak, part of Europa Hotels and Leisure, which will collect £1.94 million cash, 2.02 million Pavil-

ion shares at 135p each and 3.17 million convertible preference shares at £1 each, together with £850,000 cash for a property owned by Farpeak. The balance will be met by settlement of inter-company borrowings. The deal will give Farpeak 29.98 per cent of Pavilion now, and 43.1 per cent on full conversion. The Takeover Panel will be asked to waive the rule that insists on a full bid.

## Fokker awaits Indonesian deal decision

(Reuters) - Fokker, the Dutch aircraft manufacturer, said it could win a big order from Garuda Indonesia Airways for its Rolls-Royce powered Fokker 100 aircraft, provided the Indonesian government approves the contract.

Industry sources said the order would initially be for five or six aircraft, but could rise to about 30 within two years. They put the aircraft's cost at about £155 million (£15.3 million), valuing the order at up to £1.65 billion.

# Japanese to tighten disclosure rules in crackdown on insiders

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

Japan, long criticized for its lax controls on insider trading and beset by a securities scandal, intends to tighten its grip on stock market dealings.

A Ministry of Finance draft of definitions of corporate information that must be publicly disclosed under new rules on insider trading aims to seal the cracks in a system that would stun outsiders.

Company directors commonly - and legally - buy their own shares ahead of a significant deal and advise their friends of the opportunity.

The new regulations, which will come into force in April, will apply to domestic and foreign companies listed on Japan's stock exchanges, but

not to those traded over the counter.

Japan's flimsy rules against trading on privileged information have come under increasing criticism from New York and London as world bourses blend into one, 24-hour market. Insider trading persists in America and Europe despite "Chinese Walls" and rulebooks. The fear is that such deals might be more rampant in Japan.

The share profiteering scandal that is unravelling around Recruit Cosmos, an ambitious Japanese property company, has angered many Japanese - who are shocked at how easy it is to make money on Tokyo stocks if you are well positioned - and underlined the

fears of many foreigners about Japan's regulatory regime.

Although Japanese MPs and businessmen are deemed to have behaved unethically in buying cheap stock in Recruit Cosmos, they did not act illegally.

Recruit executives offered bargain unlisted shares in Recruit Cosmos to influential politicians, businessmen and bureaucrats. The shares soared when the company was later floated but the deal is legal unless it can be proved that Recruit received favours in return.

Under the Finance Ministry draft, any factor that would affect a company's profits by more than 30 per cent and raise or lower its net assets by

more than 5 per cent would have to be disclosed. Company executives and others with access to the privileged information would be prohibited from trading shares based on the information before it was made public.

Other data that must be revealed includes mergers or management changes that would affect sales or total assets by more than 10 per cent and new products or technology estimated to affect sales by more than 10 per cent over three business years.

The draft also says companies must disclose information on changes in capital, bankruptcies, delisting, dissolution and share buybacks to prevent takeovers.

## In the present, tense

The season of festive celebrations and goodwill it may be, but it seems that not everyone in the Square Mile had a fun-filled Christmas. A quick round-up of City and business personalities indicates that those employed in the securities industry had a decidedly more miserable holiday than their corporate clients - most of whom at least managed to escape to the sun in some far-flung corner of the globe. Using words which could equally be used to describe the stock market, Nigel Hughes, head of market-making at Hoare Govett, the broker, told me that he did not enjoy his Christmas. "It was too quiet," he complained. And, sounding equally depressed, John Craven, chairman of Morgan Grenfell, said that he had not received any Christmas presents yet, as he was still awaiting the return of his family from an African safari. Craven, who had been scheduled to join them on the trip, was forced to cancel when he made 450 employees redundant in mid-December. Asked what gift he would most like, he replied: "Some peace and quiet." Britain's captains of industry had a happier time, even if they were more forgetful. Most, including Philip Birch, chairman of Ward White, had to be reminded by their wives of the presents they received. Birch, speaking from Sydney, was given a pair of antique storm lamps, a Crystal Gayle tape and a *Floyd on Food* cookery book. "I do

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Blot on the landscape

The era of the ballpoint pen seems to be nearing its end. Trends in both America and Japan indicate that the baby boom brigade is forsaking the convenience of the ballpoint for the elegance of a fountain pen's script. And the craze is expected to catch on in Britain soon. Some 13 million fountain pens were sold in the US this year - 10 per cent more than the previous year. "Sales

are tremendous," says Brian Flax, vice-president of The Flax Company, a top Chicago art store. Status-conscious customers are prepared to pay up to £3,000 for a solid gold Waterman. "Young professionals are buying fountain pens to make a fashion statement - like they choose watches," said another retailer. "Even policemen are using fountain pens now."

cook," he insisted. Gerald Ratner, head of Ratners, the jewellery giant, said his best present was a camera from his daughter Suzy, aged 14. Anything else he would have liked? "Definitely not jewellery," he said. Similarly, Reg Harrington, chairman of

electrical accessories firm Scholes Group, wanted anything but an electric shaver. A man who clearly has everything, he was given a gold-plated wet shaving set and stand. But perhaps the most amusing present of all was given to George Inge, chairman of top peoples estate agent Savills - an umbrella which, when opened, has the message "Ob s... it's raining" inscribed on the inside.



"The market might be dull, Danbury, but..."

## Carol's Christmas

As you count the cost of Christmas, just be thankful that you were not sufficiently romantic to encumber your loved one with the fabled festive gift of 184 birds, a small orchard of pear trees and a motley workforce of 140 lords, ladies, pipers, drummers and milkmaids. For the City Diary has worked out that the total cost this year would have been £15,870.34. For that, however, you would have received not any old pear tree, but *pyrus salicifolia pendula*, the weeping willow-leaved pear (£19.35 from Hilliers of Winchester). When it comes to partridges, Get Stuffed of Islington will stuff them for £69 each. We used the same taxidermist for the two turtle doves (£57.50 each) and four colly (or calling) birds - or, in this case, blackbirds - at £46 each. French hens come oven-ready at £4.15 each. Ratner's cheapest gold rings are £19.95. Folly Farms Waterfowl of Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire, provides domestic geese for breeding at £60 a pair, and black or Whooper swans at £130 a pair. Milkmaids attract the craft rate stipulated by the Transport and General Workers' Union - £119.83 a week - while for a private venue the drummers and pipers get Grade I London Musicians Union rates. Ladies dancing are hired through Equity, for £135 each. And the Lords have been allowed their daily attendance allowance. But, there again, the course of true love never did run smoothly.

Carol Leonard

## Pressure mounts for end to restraints on shipments to US

# Tokyo may take brake off car exports

Detroit - The voluntary agreements that have restrained Japanese car exports to the United States for the last eight years may be about to end, despite a large automotive trade surplus favouring Japan.

The decision, which would be made by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, is not expected to be announced until February, but reports have appeared in the Japanese press in the last two months saying that the ministry is considering dropping the restraints, which expire on April 1.

The Japanese Automobile Manufacturers Association has pressed its call for an end to the restraints, pointing to a recovery in US car manufacturing since the early 1980s.

"The restraints have outlived their usefulness," a US-based executive of a Japanese car manufacturer said. "Who's kidding whom? The restraints have caused consumers to pay higher prices."

An industry economist said: "The Japanese look like they're getting ready to abolish the restraints. Given what we see in the strength of the yen, it just doesn't look like the restraints are restraining."

The US government, which is not a party to the restraint agreement between Japan and its car manufacturers, main-

tains a neutral position on restraints, the Commerce Department said.

The Japanese government announced a 37.9 per cent increase in the dollar value of its monthly trade surplus with the United States on December 12. This was bolstered by a 16.6 per cent increase in the automotive trade surplus.

The trade figures, however, do not measure the number of Japanese cars imported, which has declined.

Economists say the dollar figure of the trade surplus is higher because of currency fluctuations, higher prices for Japanese cars and the growing volume of automotive merchandise that is not counted in car shipments.

An economist for one of the Big Three manufacturers, who declined to be identified, pointed out that Japanese cars assembled in the United States have an average Japanese content of about 50 per cent, including parts such as engines and transmissions, which are not counted under the voluntary restraints.

Hence, the 720,000 units from so-called transplants means an economic value of about 360,000 additional Japanese imports. Although that adds to the US trade deficit, it is not counted for purposes of the restraints.

The Japanese have also been shipping more expensive models to the United

States. The trend appears to be increasing as Toyota and Nissan have joined Honda in adding luxury franchises to their regular lines of cars.

General Motors has said it generally does not support restraints but prefers the voluntary agreement between the Japanese government and its car makers to other forms of protection. Ford and the United Automobile Workers union want the number of Japanese cars assembled in the United States included in the limits. Chrysler favours keeping restraints at their current level.

Analysts and economists had incorrectly predicted that the restraints would be dropped last year, while Japanese vehicle sales were declining and car exports were running below the permitted level. But now the Japanese industry is in its second year of falling car exports to the United States.

Because of higher Japanese car prices stemming from the fall of the dollar, Japan's nine car makers shipped only 2.14 million of the 2.3 million cars they were allowed to export to the US in the year to last April. The continued relative weakness of the dollar has depressed shipments further this year. From April to October, Japan shipped 1.27 million units, compared with about 1.45 million for the same period last year.



THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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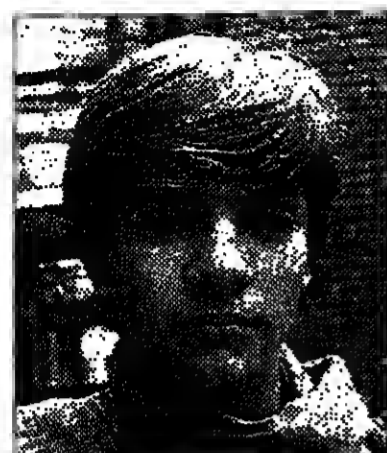




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Queen's News  
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# Citizenship by adoption claim fails Winding up former securities dealer

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Brassey and Another  
Before Lord Justice Mustill and Mr Justice McCowan

[Judgment December 21]  
A person born to South African parents in 1947 and adopted by a British man living abroad in 1953 had no right to claim British citizenship because, at the crucial date of January 1, 1949 when the British Nationality Act 1948 came into force, he did not have a British father.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment in refusing to grant judicial review to Martin Severn Maxwell Brassey and his wife, Mrs. Margaret Brassey, in their application for a writ of certiorari to quash the decision of the British Nationality Act 1948 made by the Home Secretary that they were not entitled to British nationality.

Section 12 of the British Nationality Act 1948 provides: "(1) A person who was a British subject immediately before the date of the commencement of this Act shall on that date become a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies if he possesses any of the following qualifications, that is to say (a) that he was born within the territories comprised at the commencement of this Act in the United Kingdom and Colonies, and would have been such a citizen if section 4 of this Act had been in force at the time of his birth; (b) that he is a person naturalised in the United Kingdom and Colonies; (c) that he became a British subject by reason of the annexation of a territory included at the commencement of this Act in the United Kingdom and Colonies.

"(2) A person who was a British subject immediately before the date of the commencement of this Act shall on that date become a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies if at the time of his birth his father was a British subject and possessed of the qualifications specified to the last foregoing subsection."

Mr Ismail Mohammed and Mr William Birles for the applicants, Mr Robert Jay for the Home Secretary.

LORD JUSTICE MUSTILL said on December 22, 1987 Mr Brassey applied to the British Consulate-General in Johannesburg for a UK passport, and at the same time his wife applied for registration as a British citizen. By letter dated January 5, 1988 the pro-consul rejected both applications.

Mr and Mrs Brassey now challenged that decision by their application for judicial review. Mr Brassey's claim for citizenship depended on proof that his father was already a British citizen. Mr Brassey was conveniently treated as the sole applicant.

Mr Brassey was born in South Africa on February 15, 1947 of parents who were at all material times South African citizens. On January 1, 1949 the British Nationality Act 1948 came into force.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, in allowing an appeal by way of case stated by NFC Forwarding Ltd against its conviction by the Warrington Justices, on February 4, 1988, of using a road motor vehicle part of which was in such a condition that it was likely to cause danger, contrary to regulation 100(1) of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1978 and section 40(5)(b) of the Road Traffic Act 1972.

Mr Richard Mandel for NFC Forwarding, Mr Robin Spencer for the prosecutor.

MR JUSTICE AULD said that on May 23, 1987 the defendant's trailer was being drawn by a tractor unit owned by Gorr and Sons and driven by their employee, when the outer wheel on the front axle of the trailer fell away.

It was found that six of the 10 holes through which bolts passed to secure the wheel, had become so worn that the bolts were able to pass right through the holes with the nuts still attached. The trailer was clearly defective within the meaning of regulation 100(1).

The justices had given as their reason for convicting the defendant that the motor vehicle (consisting of a tractor unit with trailer attached to it by partial superimposition, thereby creating one vehicle), as a whole was used by the defendant in connection with its business.

came into force. The applicant's parents had meanwhile divorced and later in 1949 his mother married Mr J. M. Brassey who was a British subject.

During 1953 Mr J. M. Brassey adopted the applicant under the Children's Act 1937 of South Africa. The question was whether that adoption by a British subject had the effect of entitling the applicant to the status of British nationality.

In the light of section 12 of the 1948 Act it was plain that if the infant applicant had applied in 1949 for UK citizenship his claim would have failed.

On the face of it, that was the end of the matter. The crucial date was January 1, 1949. On that date the applicant had one father, who did not qualify. The fact that by virtue of his adoption a few years later the applicant gained an adopted father, who was not the father at the time of his birth, was irrelevant.

That analysis seemed at first sight unanswerable. However, Mr Mohammed raised an objection which merited serious consideration.

His arguments included the following points: it was to South African law which one had to look to ascertain (i) the effect of the adoption under English law, (ii) whether at January 1, 1949 the applicant could be deemed to have been adopted as having, on February 1, 1947, Mr J. M. Brassey as his father and (iii) giving effect to the law of domicile, English law in 1949 would have to be applied to the applicant as having been the son of Mr J. M. Brassey from birth.

The statutory development of legislation concerning British citizenship and the status of adopted children showed a progressive enhancement in the rights of both legitimised and adopted children.

It was necessary to imagine that process interrupted half way through. Stationing oneself on December 31, 1948 and asking whether a child who had been the subject of an adoption order in favour of a British subject could thereby claim to be a natural born British subject by a question the answer had inevitably to be that he could

not. "Natural born" would have been understood as meaning what it said.

The statutes which had limited recognition to legitimisation and adoption spoke forwards, not backwards, to the purposes of the Act; and further more that all the incidents of that status would be attributed to the father for the purposes of seeing whether the child could obtain citizenship by descent.

The Act said nothing about adoption. Thus, just as the question whether the child was a "British subject" before the 1948 Act was to be determined by reference to the national status of his natural father so also the question whether he had gained the new status of "citizen of the UK and Colonies" should be judged according to the other qualifications of the same father, who was the only father possessed by the child at the time of his birth.

That was the conclusion his Lordship formed on the interpretation of the statutes up to and including the 1948 Act. It was not permissible to interpret the Act in the light of what happened afterwards, but if his Lordship had felt any doubt it would have at least been reassuring to find that as the rights of the adopted child were progressively enlarged it was thought necessary in subsequent legislation to forge a nexus between nationality and British citizenship which did not exist in 1949.

Thus far his Lordship had been concerned solely with the position of a child adopted before the commencement of the English court.

It was submitted, however, that the position was different as regards a child who had been validly adopted abroad. That gave rise to two questions:

First, whether a person adopting under a foreign adoption could rank as a father for the purposes of the 1948 Act. Second, whether all the incidents of a foreign adoption, including a retrospective effect, were to be carried into the working of the Act?

In *Re Goodman's Trust* (1881) 17 Ch D 266 it was established that legitimacy was a question of status and that such a question was to be decided by the law of the domicile of the

parents at the time of the birth. So in the present case it could be said that however narrowly the 1948 Act had defined a "father", the adopter of a child under South African law would have been a father for the purposes of the Act; and further more that all the incidents of that status would be attributed to the father for the purposes of seeing whether the child could obtain citizenship by descent.

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Thus far his Lordship had been concerned solely with the position of a child adopted before the commencement of the English court.

In re Walter L. Jacob and Co Ltd  
Before Lord Justice Fox, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Nicholls

[Judgment December 21]  
It was just and equitable to wind up a company formerly dealing in securities if, had it still been dealing in securities, it would have been just and equitable to wind it up.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment, allowing an appeal by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry from the dismissal by Mr Justice Harman of the secretary of state's petition for the compulsory winding up of Walter L. Jacob & Co Ltd, of which the Official Receiver had been appointed provisional liquidator.

Mr Philip Heslop, QC and Mr Terence Mowchenko for the secretary of state; Mr Roger Kaye for the Official Receiver; and Mr Duncan Matheson for the company.

LORD JUSTICE NICHOLLS said that the company was incorporated in 1948. It was issued with a share capital of £5,000, all of which, save one, were registered in the name of Mr Walter L. Jacob, a Scottish solicitor, who was the sole director of the company.

Until April 1987 the company carried on business as a dealer in securities and an investment adviser. It had the requisite authority to deal in securities by virtue of its membership of the self-regulatory organization, Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association ("FIMBA"), and traded from offices in London and Edinburgh.

Early in January 1987 FIMBA sent to the Department of Trade and Industry copies of correspondence passing between FIMBA members of the public and the company relating to complaints about the conduct of the company.

On January 26, 1987 the secretary of state authorized Mr D. R. Brailsford, a senior examiner of the company's accounts, to require the company to produce to him its books and papers.

Mr Brailsford carried out an examination, the upshot of which was that the secretary of state formed the view that it was expedient in the public interest that the company should be wound up.

On April 15, 1987 he presented the petition in the exercise of his power under section 440 of the Companies Act 1985, read with section 124(4) of the Insolvency Act 1986.

On the following day the vacation judge appointed the Official Receiver to be the provisional liquidator and Mr R. Hocking, a chartered accountant, to be the special manager of the company.

unsuspecting members of the public who got in touch with the company in response to its advertisements offering attractive terms for the purchase of shares in Trustee Savings Bank or British Gas following those share issues.

The company sought to persuade those investing members of the public, successfully in many instances, to invest the proceeds of sale of their Trustee Savings Bank or British Gas shares in buying shares in one or other of two American companies of dubious value, by putting forward recommendations in a form which was misleading in that it conveyed the impression that the company was giving professional advice as to securities, and from being a vendor of shares disseminating sales literature.

Further, the company's connection with the American companies was not disclosed, shares being recommended could not be traded freely. Moreover, the company's financial records had not been adequately maintained.

The hearing of the petition took place on July 7, 1987. There was no cross-examination and there were no supporting or opposing creditors.

Three points in particular impressed the judge:

First, by the petition case he heard the company was no longer dealing in securities.

Second, there was no allegation of insolvency.

Third, save for one exception, there was no allegation that a member of the public had not been paid for shares sold by him to the company, or that any member of the public had not been paid for certificates to which he was entitled.

The judge expressed the view that the averments in the petition were not made out by the evidence in a way that would justify the very serious act of winding up the company compulsorily.

The consequence of the dismissal of the petition by the judge was that the appointment of the Official Receiver as provisional liquidator and of Mr Hocking as special manager determined. The company resumed control of its affairs.

Under section 122(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986 the making of a winding up order lay in the discretion of the court. The company may be wound up by the court if . . . (g) the court is of the opinion that it is just and equitable that the company should be wound up.

Thus, the appellate court was not bound to set aside the judge's order unless satisfied that the judge misdirected himself on the law or the evidence or that his decision was so plainly wrong that he must have exercised his discretion wrongly.

the hearing and carry out a balancing exercise, giving such weight to the various factors as was appropriate in the particular case.

In principle the exercise to be carried out where the petitioner was the secretary of state was the same. The only difference lay in the nature of the reasons being put forward by the petitioner for the making of a compulsory winding up order.

On petitions presented pursuant to section 440 of the Companies Act and section 124(4) of the Insolvency Act 1986 the matters being placed before the court by the petitioner as reasons why the company should be wound up were rooted in considerations of the public interest.

When the petition came before the court, the court's task in the so-called public interest petitions, as in all other petitions under section 440, was to carry out the balancing exercise, having regard to all the circumstances disclosed by the totality of the evidence before the court.

Accordingly, the judge did not misdirect himself when he proceeded on the basis that, before making a winding up order, he had to be satisfied that a winding up order was in the public interest.

In certain other material respects, however, his Lordship differed from the judge in his approach to the case.

First, it was not right to take such a lenient view of the conduct of the company of which complaint was made.

Second, although the company, when buying or selling shares, always acted as a principal, it was not correct to say that the evidence showed that the company had itself acted out to the public in that way.

Given those and other respects in which the judge's exercise of his discretion does not stand, it was for their Lordships' court to exercise its own discretion in the light of the circumstances as they existed now.

The company's case was that it stopped trading in securities in April 1987 and it had now wound down that business. It said that with the exception of a very few special cases, all those who bought the shares it recommended had received their share certificates, and those who sold shares had had their debits discharged.

It submitted that a winding up order would be prejudicial rather than helpful to clients of the company, because if an order were made the winding up would be deemed to commence on April 15, 1987, when the petition was presented, with the consequence that the payments made by the company to clients since then would be void unless the court ordered otherwise.

His Lordship was unpersuaded by that line of argument. For many years Parliament had recognized the need for the general public to be protected against the activities of unscrupulous persons who dealt in securities.

The public interest required that individuals and companies who dealt in securities should maintain at least the generally accepted minimum standards of commercial behaviour, and that those who fell below those standards should have their activities stopped.

There was no doubt that the method by which the company sought to persuade investing members of the public to purchase shares was unacceptable.

His Lordship would have had no doubt, if the company had still been dealing in securities, that it was just and equitable that it should be wound up. The fact that the company ceased to carry on that business immediately before the petition was presented did not make a crucial difference.

By winding up the company the court was authoritatively making a meaningful way, its approval of the company's conduct. In addition to being a fitting outcome for the company itself, such a course had the further benefit of pointing out to others that the court would not hesitate to wind up companies whose standards of dealing with the investing public were unacceptable.

It was just and equitable that the company should be wound up compulsorily and should be so ordered.

LORD JUSTICE RALPH GIBSON and LORD JUSTICE FOX agreed.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Booth & Blackwell; Russell Jones & Walker.

## Council officer can delegate task

Fitzpatrick v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another

A local authority was entitled to permit arrangements to be made for the performance of its duties which, which by resolution of the authority had been imposed upon its chief officer, could properly be performed by one of its subordinates.

Where, therefore, a local authority had by resolution instructed the district secretary to issue enforcement notices under the Town and Country Planning Act 1971, such notices prepared

by one of his staff, who had endorsed them with the district secretary's facsimile signature, were valid.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice May, Lord Justice Croom-Johnson and Lord Justice Gildewell) so held on December 13, dismissing an appeal by Mr James Fitzpatrick from Mr Justice Roch on October 8, 1987 had dismissed his appeal under section 246 of the 1971 Act from an inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for the Environment, dismissing his appeal against

two enforcement notices issued by Epping Forest District Council.

LORD JUSTICE GILDWELL said that the use of facsimile signatures was expressly permitted by section 342(2) of the Local Government Act 1972.

The *ratio* of *Provident Mutual Life Assurance Association v Derby City Council* ([1981] 1 WLR 173) was exactly applicable. The notices had been properly issued on behalf of the district secretary and were valid.

## Trailer offence distinct from vehicle charge

NFC Forwarding Ltd v Director of Public Prosecutions

Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Auld [Judgment December 20]  
The offence of using a road motor vehicle in such a condition that it was likely to cause danger, contrary to regulation 100(1) of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1978 and section 40(5)(b) of the Road Traffic Act 1972.

Mr Richard Mandel for NFC Forwarding, Mr Robin Spencer for the prosecutor.

MR JUSTICE AULD said that on May 23, 1987 the defendant's trailer was being drawn by a tractor unit owned by Gorr and Sons and driven by their employee, when the outer wheel on the front axle of the trailer fell away.

It was found that six of the 10 holes through which bolts passed to secure the wheel, had become so worn that the bolts were able to pass right through the holes with the nuts still attached. The trailer was clearly defective within the meaning of regulation 100(1).

The justices had given as their reason for convicting the defendant that the motor vehicle (consisting of a tractor unit with trailer attached to it by partial superimposition, thereby creating one vehicle), as a whole was used by the defendant in connection with its business.

The trailer part of that motor vehicle was not used by it, loaded by it, and maintained by it. To say that the whole vehicle was not used by it meant that it simply had to ensure that all its trailers were drawn by tractor units belonging to someone else, so that it would not be responsible for the condition of its trailers when used on the road.

Attention had to be drawn to the fact that the 1972 Act and the 1986 Regulations created quite separate offences of using, on a road, a defective motor vehicle and a defective trailer (section 40 of the Act provided: "(5) . . . a person . . . who uses on a road a motor vehicle or trailer which does not comply with any [of the regulations] or causes or permits a vehicle to be so used, shall be guilty of an offence." Regulation 100 provided: "(1) A motor vehicle, every trailer

drawn thereby and all parts and accessories of such vehicle and trailer shall at all times be in such a condition that no danger is caused or is likely to be caused to any person in or on the vehicle or trailer or on a road . . ."

Further, section 190(1) of the Act defined a motor vehicle as "a mechanically propelled vehicle intended or adapted for use on roads" and a trailer as "a vehicle drawn by a motor vehicle."

Again, section 190(9) of the Act, which was concerned with the definition of a motor vehicle "constructed itself to carry a load", provided "for the purposes of this section, in a case where a motor vehicle is so constructed that a trailer may be attached to the vehicle in such a manner as to cause a substantial part of the weight of the trailer to be borne by the vehicle, that vehicle shall be deemed to be a vehicle constructed to carry a load."

That "deeming" provision was only necessary because the two did not become one vehicle when attached to each other; and, importantly, it did not deem the motor vehicle to include the trailer which it was drawing and substantially supporting.

His Lordship would not, however, accept the defence submission to the effect that the provision, in section 40(5)(b), for an offence in relation to the use of a trailer, was limited to circumstances where the trailer was detached from a motor vehicle.

That was because first, because the definition of a trailer in section 190(1) as "a vehicle drawn by a motor vehicle" suggested the contrary; second, on present authority, only the driver (and/or his employer, when the vehicle was being driven) on the employer's premises "uses" a motor vehicle who it was on the road; so there could then be no "user" of a stationary and unattached trailer left on a road.

Clearly some different and broader test would have to be applied by the courts in relation to the "use on a road" of a vehicle.

If a trailer owner was responsible for putting it on a road in a defective condition, he should not be able to escape liability for it when it was being drawn by relying on someone else to draw it.

That was the mischief which the justices had been anxious to do so by attributing to the defendant, by virtue of its ownership of the trailer, the use of the whole articulated vehicle.

It was simply the trailer that had been defective; and if the defendant was "using" anything, it was the trailer. The prosecutor had not strictly with that, so it was not obliged necessary for the court to rule on

## No liability even if statutory advice is wrong

Mills and Others v Winchester Diocesan Board of Finance and Others

Before Mr Justice Knox [Judgment December 8]  
No action for damages could be brought by a potential object of a charity against the Charity Commissioners for advice given in the exercise of their statutory functions under section 24 of the Charities Act 1960 even if that advice was wrong, given negligently and caused loss to the potential objects.

Mr Justice Knox so held in dismissing an appeal from Mr Justice Croom-Johnson in *Mills and Others v Winchester Diocesan Board of Finance and Others* (1988) 1 WLR 173.

The writ and statement of claim in the first action sought a declaration that the commis-

sions had given an erroneous opinion and advice to the charity trustees of a local school to the effect that proposals for a new school were not in the power of the trust and that the trusts had failed. The second action claimed damages for negligence.

The first and third defendants in both cases were respectively the Charity Commissioners and the Winchester Diocesan Board of Finance and the Attorney General.

Mrs Mills and Mr Transister in person; Mr Peter Crampin for the Charity Commissioners and the Attorney General.

MR JUSTICE KNOX said that in considering whether the master's decision to strike out the Charity Commissioners as parties was correct the court would assume, without deciding, that the allegations of fact in the statements of claim were correct and that the plaintiffs were potential objects of the trust.

In the first action it was alleged the terms on which

certain land and premises were conveyed to the Winchester Diocesan Board in 1942, namely that they were to be used by the trustees of the trust for the purposes of the education of children and adults or children only of the labouring manufacturing and other poorer classes to the parish of Upton Grey or, as a class room meeting room or lecture room for confirmation or for other religious instruction or for secular instruction.

In 1986 the local authority proposed to cease to maintain the school. The inhabitants submitted objections which were overruled by the Department of Education.

The plaintiffs, with the support of many residents of Upton Grey, put forward proposals for the provision for the use of a school for under-fives. The Diocesan Board were sympathetic, but the Charity Commissioners, after a lapse of three months, rejected the proposals, saying they were not within the powers of the trust.

The plaintiffs were taking these proceedings in good faith at their own expense for the benefit of the locality, and the proceedings were said to be charitable in character under section 28(8) of the Charities Act 1980.

It was contended that the commissioners had unreasonably frustrated the inhabitants' proposals. Their opinion was that the proposals were erroneous and had led to litigation the costs of which should be borne by them.

The second action alleged negligence in giving the erroneous opinion and claimed damages.

Neither action suggested that the commissioners had acted *malafide* or for improper motive.

In October 1988, Master Barrat ordered that the Charity Commissioners cease to be parties; the plaintiffs appealed.

The first two plaintiffs, who appeared in person, said they had no legal qualifications. They relied for legal argument on notes on the law prepared by a person not unfamiliar with the law since those notes were published by quotations from reported cases, some old, some not so old, and with references to the statutes.

His Lordship had all the assistance which a judge expected from a member of the Bar, Mr Crampin, who drew the court's attention to all the relevant material of which he was aware whether or not it was in his clients' favour.

power the Commissioners to authorize dealings with charity property, turned to section 24 which he said was central to the case.

It provided: "(1) The Commissioners may on the written application of any charity trustee give him their opinion or advice on any matter affecting the performance of his duties as such."

Subsection (2) provided that charity trustees acting in accordance with such opinion or advice "shall be deemed . . . to have acted in accordance with his duty when acting in good faith."

The immunity was clearly conferred on the charity trustees; not on the commissioners themselves.

The plaintiffs submitted that an implication could be drawn from that fact that the commissioners were liable for advice given negligently.

It would also be observed that the section contemplated that the issue to question might be referred to the court for decision and that as soon as proceedings were pending for that to be done the immunity of the trustees ceased.

The section did not say so but it was clear that trustees acting in accordance with the court's opinion would equally be protected against liability for so acting.

"Charity proceedings" could be taken either by the charity, by the charity trustees, by any person interested in the charity, by any two or more inhabitants of the area, if it was a local charity, but not by any other person.

Leave was required from the commissioners or from a judge of the Chancery Division but there was no question of the Charity Commissioners being "above the law" because an appeal lay against a refusal by the commissioners.

As defined in section 28(8) charity proceedings did not include proceedings to resolve a *bonafide* dispute as to what advice on any matter affecting the performance of a charity trustee's duty under section 24(1). Machinery was therefore available to any person having the necessary *locus standi* to challenge the validity of the advice given.

## Case conference ban on mother not unfair

Regina v Harrow London Borough Council, Ex parte D

The refusal by a council social services department to allow a mother to attend a case conference concerning her three children was not unfair, unreasonable or contrary to the rules of natural justice.

Mr Justice Anthony Lincoln, sitting in the Queen's Bench Division, so held on November 26, in dismissing the mother's application for judicial review of the decision of the London Borough of Harrow

to place her three children on the child abuse register.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the mother had asked through her solicitor if she could attend the case conference but was refused and told that she could make written submissions which she did.

Guidelines had been issued by the former Department of Social Security as to the composition of a case conference. Parents were notably absent from the categories of persons to be invited to attend.

It was equally clear that it was only proper to join a party as defendant if the plaintiff sought to assert a legal right against that defendant but there was no right to costs save as an adjunct to the resolution of the proceedings in question.

As to the claim for damages the legal notes relied on by the plaintiffs referred to *Henry v Lynn Corporation* ([1982] 5 Bly 91, 108). The decision of Chief Justice Best in that case was put on very broad grounds, and was not of much assistance.

The liability of public authorities has been considered in *Ministry of Housing v Sharp* ([1970] 2 KB 223, 266) and *Jones v Department of Employment* ([1982] 2 WLR 493), wherein the modern authorities were conveniently collected.

The fourth holding in that case showed that the duty lay in the field of public law



CRICKET: WEST INDIES ESTABLISH AN UNASSAILABLE LEAD AS RICHARDSON SCORES HIS SEVENTH TEST HUNDRED

A wave of despair for Australia

From John Woodcock, Melbourne
Australian mothers and sons are great carriers of their national flag, but it was a long time yesterday before they had much reason to wave it. Although West Indies had to make do without Greenidge and Logie until late in the day, they had no great difficulty extending their second innings in the third Test match from 69 for one to 361 for nine. With a day to go they are, therefore, 399 runs ahead, already an unassailable lead. It is unthinkable that Richards will bat on today, yet he did so in Perth, when in a similar position, and he made a point of not declaring at the close of play last night even though, by doing so, his wish to have the bowlers' footholds repaired would have had to be met. As it was Border, as captain of the fielding side, insisted that they should be left as they were, and not even Richards and the West Indian manager, Clive Lloyd, could persuade either the umpires or the curator that this was unreasonable. A stage has been reached in the series when neither side is prepared to make the slightest concession. It had been a friendlier, sunnier day for batting than the previous two, but that was but a small part of the reason why there were now strokes where there had been none. It was not as though Australia were averse to bowling short. When they got down to Ambrose and Walsh late in the day, they did their level best to put them on the floor. But two Australian fast bowlers carry not the height, nor the weight, nor the pace, nor the relentless menace of four West Indians. In a sense the match marked time, waiting for today. Despite Logie's broken nose and Greenidge's bruised eye, suffered while batting on Tuesday evening, West Indies were never in any danger of being bowled out for fewer runs than would have suited them. This was especially so when Border started off with Hughes and McDermott, although Alderman was always likely to be his most testing bowler. Hughes was, in fact, in his seventh over of the day when he conceded his first run. But McDermott was soon giving Richardson the chance to air his favourite leg-side strokes. Richardson was to complete his seventh Test hundred, and his fourth against Australia, virtually unbothered by spin — and spin is his Achilles' heel. Of the bowlers to have got him out in Test cricket, Embury heads the list with



Pause for thought: Border, the Australian captain, ponders his team's forlorn chances

SPORTS LETTERS

Betting levy not seen as a winner

From Mr G. R. Dennis
Sir, As chairman of one of the largest bookmaking firms outside the multiples, may I comment on Mr Tom Kelly's article (December 22) on the "why" and the "what" of the betting levy and your leading article (December 17). The latter stated that the bulk of profit from betting in this country is retained by bookmakers. That is totally untrue. The approximate gross profit margin on betting turnover is 20 per cent, with 17 per cent being taken up by operating costs, betting duty, levy and VAT, leaving a pre-tax profit of 3 per cent at best. With betting duty at 8 per cent it is obvious that the greater part of the profit margin goes direct to the Exchequer. In fact, if one takes into account not turnover, but the actual amount spent, then the Government's slice amounts to no less than 40 per cent. Proposals which have been put forward by the Bookmakers' Committee to the Horserace Betting Levy Board would produce at least £31.7 million for the benefit of racing. In my opinion, with the advent of satellite television racing, the sum to be realized would, as in the past three years, comfortably exceed forecast projections and without any modification to the bookmakers' proposals the levy board would achieve their stated objective of £34 million. The vast sums of money being mentioned do not come from bookmakers' profits but from the punters' pockets. To suggest a levy equating to 4 per cent of turnover is not only naive but downright irresponsible. When one sees that the levy board has had a surplus for the last three years of 10 per cent, 18.1 per cent and 18.2 per cent, it

Swedes' spirit shines through

From Mr Bunnay Austin
Sir, I read with pleasure (December 19) that after the Swedish defeat in the Davis Cup, Stefan Edberg and Anders Jarryd and their captain, Hans Olsson, came to the interview room on Saturday and you would never have known whether they had won or lost. Your correspondent seemed to feel there must be something lacking in the Swedish spirit. But is it not the very spirit we need in this country? Is not this the living expression of the famous lines from Rudyard Kipling's poem "If": "If you can meet with triumph and disaster / And rise above both with unshooked mind / You will surely be a Man, my Boy, / And Greatness will be yours." The Swedish met with disaster and treated it with the same composure as they treat victory. I say "Hallelujah" — well played Sweden! BUNNAY AUSTIN, 3 Victoria Square, SW1. From Mr Josef Garlinski
Sir, It was a Swedish mistake not to play the last "dead" singles in the memorable Davis Cup match, but as long as the final result was in doubt, the behaviour of the Swedish players, spectators and officials was remarkable. The umpire was British, but the linesmen were local and their calls were as objective as possible. On match point for Wimbledon the Swiss return just touched the outside margin of the line. In how many countries would this shot not have been called "out"? And it was the turning point of the whole match. Yours faithfully, JOZEF GARLINSKI, 94 Ramillies Road, W4.

Maid Of Money springs surprise at Leopardstown

From Our Irish Racing Correspondent, Dublin
Maid Of Money sprang a 12-1 surprise in the £30,000 Black and White Whisky Champion Chase at Leopardstown yesterday. Making the most of some poor jumping by odds-on favourite Weather The Storm and market rival Wolf Of Badenoch's lack of stamina, Maid Of Money outstayed her opponents to win by five lengths. Maid Of Money was the sole representative of this season's crop of novice chasers and she won in impressive fashion. Going down the back straight, the writing was already on the wall for those who had laid the odds on last year's winner Weather The Storm. At three consecutive fences he lost ground to the free-jumping front-runner Wolf Of Badenoch and he was already under pressure and looking beaten when making a bash of the second last fence, giving Tom Taaffe no chance of staying in the saddle. This left Wolf Of Badenoch with what appeared to be an unassailable lead. However, his lack of stamina eventually began to tell after landing on the flat and he was run out of it by the staying-on Maid Of Money. As with Tuesday's big chase, winner Hawk A Barony, this was a case of victory going to a marvellously consistent performer. She has never yet been out of the first four on the Flat, over hurdles or on the turf. At Leopardstown this afternoon the Sean Graham Memorial Hurdle should shed some light on the Irish challenge for the Waterford Crystal

Windsor hurdle entries

Eleven horses have been entered at the five-day stage for the New Year's Day Hurdle at Windsor on Monday, including Celtic Chief, who won the race last year before landing the Champion Hurdle. Celtic Chief, third at Cheltenham in March, also the line-up, as Calanque, a length second to Mercy Rimell's charge at Ascot last time. Mrs Rimell has stated that Celtic

Results from three meetings

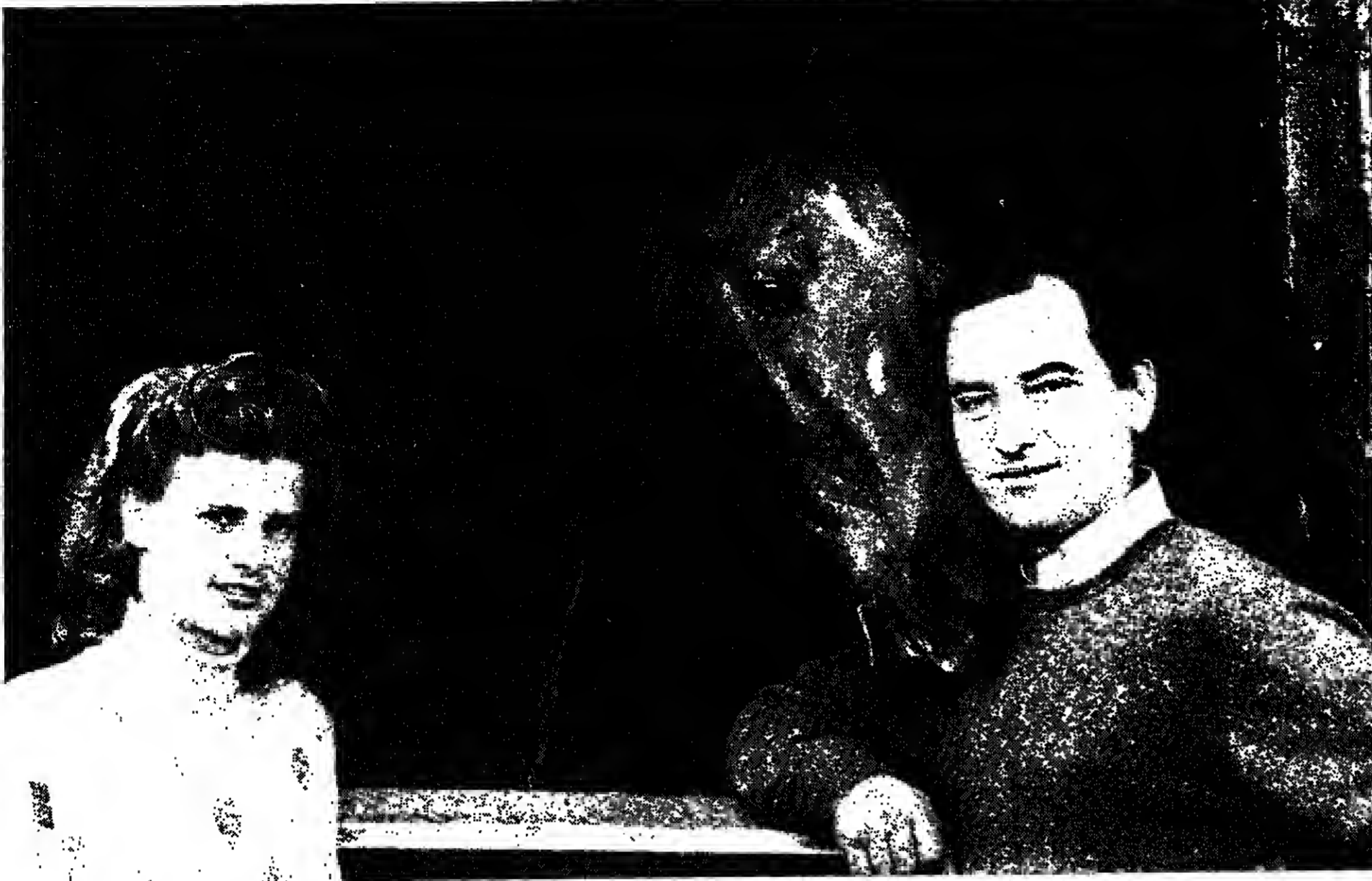
Newcastle
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12.45 (2m 4h) 1. SOLICITORS CHOICE (F. 7-2), 2. This Nettie Dancer (M. Dwyer), 3. Sunnyside (W. 12-1), 4. ALSO RAN: 5. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 6. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 7. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 8. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 9. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 10. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 11. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 12. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 13. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 14. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 15. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 16. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 17. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 18. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 19. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 20. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 21. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 22. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 23. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 24. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 25. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 26. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 27. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 28. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 29. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 30. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 31. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 32. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 33. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 34. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 35. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 36. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 37. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 38. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 39. The Duke (M. Dwyer), 40. 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Sporting Exiles: Luca Cumani talks to Simon Barnes



Cumani, who trained his first Derby winner this year, and his wife, Sara, at their Newmarket yard: "His lads may call him 'guvnor' but at heart he is Il Principe"

From handicappers to the high-life

Luca Cumani is an Italian racehorse trainer. He trained the Derby winner this year. With characteristic British wit, he is known as 'The Wop'. An Italian training at Newmarket? You might as well have an English goodfeller, or an English pope. Though there has been an English pope, come to think of it: Hadrian IV.

by working his passage around the horse world: California, Australia, Hong Kong. He went to England, back to Italy, back to England again, and stayed. He got a job pupil-assisting with Henry Cecil. Learnt about obsession from the master, and resolved to set up on his own.

him. "Good publicity," he says sublimely, looking back. "I had handicappers, so I had to win handicaps. I always made a point of not cheating. My horses always won their big handicaps after winning before. They weren't coming in off a string of duck eggs and winning at 66-1. Most were favourites. There was nothing underhand. I was just making the system work to my advantage." Note the effortless use of racing slang.

Cumani has risen in the hit parade since the days when he lived and died by his handicappers. He finished second in the trainers' championship, and of course won his Derby (and the Irish one as well), which tells the world he is not so much a first division trainer as a member of the Super-League. It is quite something for an Exile - or an immigrant if you prefer - to come from outside and to reach the top, or very nearly the top. Cumani has yet to win the trainers' championship, and he would like to do that very much indeed.

dreary. That's what I like about being here. Here being England, or if you prefer, Abroad. Exiled. But there is always a certain amount of Italianate gloom surrounding Cumani, something that is rather impenetrable to a Brit. For all that Cumani manages to alchemize it into part of his drive for victories. "To win the Derby is a strange feeling, not at all what you would expect. You go to the races that day full of trepidation. You try - at least, I try - to pick holes in it. form. Did he really beat anything at Lingfield? Has he ever sparked enough on the gallops to win a Derby? I continually tried to find reasons why Kahyasi couldn't win. "Then he wins, and you are just standing there. It takes a while for it all to come together. Very strange. And then you come home that night, and you are faced with everyday problems, and next morning there are more, so you just put the win behind you ... and carry on."

ICE HOCKEY

Fetisov's desire still flickers despite delays

Uniondale, New York - Vyacheslav Fetisov, a member of the Soviet Union national side, still hopes to become the first player from his country to join a National League (NHL) team despite numerous hitches in negotiations. Fetisov, aged 30, who is seeking clearance to play for the New Jersey Devils, is bound by a 25-year military contract and a coach who is not ready to field a national team without him.



On Tuesday night he sat in a hotel lobby near the Nassau Coliseum, where the Central Red Army team will continue a tour of NHL teams with a game against the Islanders today. He was flanked by an interpreter he barely needed, and he clutched a New Jersey Devils media guidebook as he told the complex story of the political negotiations that have thus far prevented him from starting his career afresh in the NHL.

Tigers slip nearer to relegation zone

Two matches were played in the premier division of the Heineken League on Tuesday and the results were of some significance at both ends of the table. Murrayfield Racers took their winning run to 13, beating Tayside Tigers 19-9 and achieving their tenth double-figure score in 11 games.

Old sea dog on the scent of victory

Can Syd Fischer, one of 'yesterday's heroes' in Australian ocean racing, sailing a nine-year-old yacht called Ragamuffin, which he still craves because he has been unable to sell, who the AWA Sydney-Hobart race? The sentimental answer would be yes.

Duys ends Indian run

A run of consecutive Indian victories was halted by Marto Duys, of The Netherlands, in the international Cadet class world championship yesterday.

SNOW REPORTS

Table with columns: Location, Depth (cm), Pistes, Conditions, Runs to resort, Weather (Spm) °C. Includes entries for Andorra, Austria, France, Italy, Switzerland, and Scotland.

TABLE TENNIS

A contrast of styles in Masters

Jason Fogarty has been named basketball player of the year for his performances during 1988 with both MIM Livingston and England. An aggressive centre or forward, who has often belied his 21 years to produce stirring displays for club and country.

BASKETBALL

Fogarty honoured with coveted English award

Jason Fogarty has been named basketball player of the year for his performances during 1988 with both MIM Livingston and England. An aggressive centre or forward, who has often belied his 21 years to produce stirring displays for club and country.

FISHING

Auction to aid salmon

A salmon boat on the Queen's water of the Aberdeenshire Dee at Balmoral is on offer for two rods for March 20 to 25 in the annual postal auction organized by the Atlantic Salmon Trust in aid of salmon conservation.

CYCLING

McDaid is appointed to key post

Gerry McDaid, the chairman of the British Cycling Federation's professional racing committee, has been appointed to two key international roles next season.

YACHTING

Old sea dog on the scent of victory

Can Syd Fischer, one of 'yesterday's heroes' in Australian ocean racing, sailing a nine-year-old yacht called Ragamuffin, which he still craves because he has been unable to sell, who the AWA Sydney-Hobart race? The sentimental answer would be yes.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table with columns: Sport, Time, Location, Details. Includes Football, Motor Sport, Other Sport, and Sport on TV.

OTHER SPORT

Table with columns: Sport, Time, Location, Details. Includes Volleyball, Street Hockey, Table Tennis.

SPORT ON TV

Table with columns: Sport, Time, Channel, Details. Includes Football, Motor Sport, Other Sport.

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT, BOMBAY

The UK Open champion, Charlotte Neill, had a mixed race, dropping from eighth to 21st, then gaining 12 places on the final two legs of the event.







# Leaders rise on tide of mediocrity

By Peter Ball

"The worst first division I can remember," Bob Paisley said early this year, as Liverpool led the League by the proverbial street. Nearly 12 months later, Norwich City lead the most wide-open championship race in years, with one eminent critic even suggesting that Tottenham Hotspur, presently eleventh, are worth a bet. The supporters, if not flocking back in droves, are returning in significant numbers.

Whether that signifies that all is well is another matter. Having been in the north-west, where, in the past, I have been spoiled, perhaps I have been unlucky in what I have seen this year - injuries have undermined Liverpool, and both Everton and Manchester United have shied to avoid the conclusion that the greater equality arises from mass mediocrity. Liverpool have given a few brilliant performances, and I have been generally unlucky with Arsenal. Tottenham have produced flashes of brilliance and Norwich have looked a neat, positive side.

Southampton's abandonment of the traditional front player in favour of two quick flank players, Tottenham's flexible system, and a group of clubs using a sweeper. But it is not much to balance against the evident decline in basic ability.

"The standard is very average," according to Peter Shreeve, the Queen's Park Rangers assistant manager, one of the most forward looking and imaginative coaches. "Norwich have a lot of poise on the ball, they are all comfortable with it and they are a closely knit team, which gives them a lot of strength. But the two teams who have impressed me the most have been Arsenal and Liverpool and in the end the championship will go to one of them."



Shreeve: average standard



Wilkinson: better coaching

"We have played Arsenal twice. In the Mercantile Credit match they were outstanding, playing one-two all over the field. In the League we were winning 1-0 with 20 minutes to go and they changed their tactics and began playing longer balls which worked."

"So they are flexible in their tactics. They score a lot of goals, they get their goals from all through the team, and they've got a pretty good run-in as well, so I think they will win the championship, although Liverpool will also be there."

Howard Wilkinson, who voluntarily moved out of the first division to take over at Leeds United, is more circumspect: "I thought Liverpool last season were the best side I had seen since the days of the great Liverpool-Leeds rivalry and the Arsenal double side, so if you are using them as the barometer to judge the others you are setting the standard very, very high."

Both observers agreed that on the coaching and tactical sides the game is maintaining its standards. "For a while behind from the first phase to get catch up and use your skill."

In a telling remark, Shreeve referred to one player, outstanding in the lower divisions, as "a good passer, but not strong enough for the first division". In days past, strength and fitness equipped you for the third division north, skill for the first division. Those days, apparently, have gone, and players moving up a division find they have less time and space.

"What we are saying," Shreeve said, "is that if you are fit and strong and can get up and down the field you can play in the first division."

The result is the game we see: 22 highly trained and well coached athletes, but little to make you catch your breath. "Generally the best players we come across are the veterans," Shreeve said. "Jimmy Case, of Southampton, for example. And Trevor Francis has had a very good season for us."

Pressed for the names of young players who might emerge, both Shreeve and Wilkinson could come up with only a limited list. Wilkinson admired Paul Gascoigne and Michael Thomas. Shreeve added Paul Stewart and Aston Villa's leading goal-

rate from their team? and you get only four or five names. The rest are hard-working, very fit, athletic footballers, but there aren't too many who can actually change a game.

"The biggest problem is finding the time and space in which to play. It's a three-phase game now. The first half-hour is a battle, a question of having the sheer physical effort to keep yourselves in the game."

"Then it becomes a game of cat and mouse, waiting for the other side to make a mistake, and it is only in the last 25 minutes that you begin to get the time and space to make your skill count because legs are getting tired. But if you don't get it right in the first half-hour, you are too far

behind from the first phase to get catch up and use your skill."

scored Alan McNally, who he described as "a Roy of the Rovers player, a 400 metres runner with the power to keep going, a bit of arrogance". Wilkinson concurred. Shreeve also praised Ian Crook - "who has bridged the gap, because he was a weak lad at Tottenham" - Stuart McCall and Paul Ince, of West Ham United.

It hardly constitutes a new wave, and in any case Wilkinson advised caution. "We are getting to the stage where any youngster of 19 who is just above average is being highlighted as a rising star."

● Norwich's position at the top of the first division does not impress the bookmakers. City Index rate Norwich no more than fourth favourites at 12-1.

ODDS: First division: evens; Arsenal 2-1; Liverpool: 7-1; Everton 12-1; Norwich City 25-1; Manchester United: 50-1; Tottenham Hotspur, Millwall, Nottingham Forest: 65-1; Coventry City, Derby County, FA Cup: 4-1; Liverpool: 10-1; Arsenal, Everton, Manchester United, Nottingham Forest: 14-1; Tottenham: 20-1; Coventry: 25-1; Aston Villa, Middlesbrough, Norwich, Sheffield Wednesday: 33-1; Derby, Millwall, Southampton, West Ham United: 50-1; others: Littlewoods Cup: 5-2; Nottingham Forest: 5-1; Luton Town, West Ham: 6-1; Southampton, Aston Villa: 8-1; Queen's Park Rangers: 10-1; Bradford City: 33-1; Bristol City.

END COLUMN

## British bobs on icy slope

By Chris Moore

The British Bobsleigh Association (BBA) is in crisis following the resignation of three principal officials, including the team manager, Mo Hammond. Its secretary, Stuart Strong, and his fellow director, Lord Anthony Burgess, who for the last 2½ years have been directly responsible for the day-to-day running of the BBA, have stood down with him.

The common denominator behind all three resignations is an acute cash shortage caused by the lack of a major sponsor and an unexpected 75 per cent reduction in the annual subsidy the BBA receives from the Sports Council.

The situation is so serious it could also prevent two of Britain's top three drivers, Nick Phillips, who carried the British flag at the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympic Games in Calgary in February, and Tom De La Henty, from competing in next month's European championships in Winterberg and at the world championships in Cortina.

Phipps gained Britain's highest finish in the world championships for over 20 years when he came sixth in both the two and four-man competitions in St Moritz two years ago.

He has already gone deep into debt over the first two months of the season and admitted last night: "Unless I can secure some individual sponsorship within the next week or so, my season is as good as over."

Only the military team is secure. The same applies to De La Henty, who was runner-up to Mark Tont in this season's British four-man championships. However, Tont and his military crew have no such problems because the Army team has its own substantial backing from Save and Prosper and Wincanton.

This has inevitably led to a feeling in some civilian circles, particularly last season, that the Army were operating almost as a team within a team. As things stand at the moment Tont is the only full-time British crew on the circuit, which effectively leaves the manager without a team to manage.

Hammond, who had the distinction of becoming the first British president of an Olympic jury in Calgary, took charge of the British team for the last time at the recent World Cup event in Sarajevo. "After nine years in the job I'm obviously disappointed it has to end like this," he said. "But the fact remains that due to a lack of money we have only one viable team, which is from the Army, and naturally enough they want to run it themselves. It's their ball game at the moment."

Funding now lies with individuals. However, Hammond will be in attendance at both the European and world championships. He has already been elected president of the jury in Winterberg and is also expected to be on the jury at Cortina.

Paul Prusynski, the newly elected honorary secretary of the BBA, said yesterday that British bobsledding is in its most precarious position for a long time. "It's not quite yet a matter of life or death," he said. "But it's true we are struggling to keep our heads above water at the moment."

## Griffiths adds his protest to rebels over card scheme

By John Goodbody

Sir Eldon Griffiths, the former Minister for Sport, yesterday joined the growing number of rebel Tory MPs who are opposed to the Government's controversial Bill that from next season would make it compulsory for all football supporters to carry identity cards.

Sir Eldon, the Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds, warned that he was "looking for drastic amendments to be made by the Standing Committee - otherwise it will not work". He also said that "unless such changes are made, I should find it hard to support the Bill on Third Reading".

In a letter to Patrick Cobbold, the chairman of Ipswich Town, Sir Eldon, the consultant/adviser to the National Police Federation, said that he shared the Federation's misgivings that the "report of the Minister for Sport's working party was a 'mishmash'".

Sir Eldon criticizes Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, for being "unwise" not to agree to the Police Federation's request to have discussions about the practicalities of the scheme. "He would have learned a lot by listening to them."

Moynihan would argue that the working party included a representative from the Association of Police Officers (ACPO). In any case, he would point out that many senior and experienced officers feel that the identity card scheme is worth introducing to try to halt hooliganism, whose excesses are curbed only by elaborate policing costing the taxpayer more than £30 million a year.

The working party recommended that a Football Membership Authority (FMA) should be established to co-ordinate the scheme and grant membership cards. But Sir Eldon says the FMA promises to be "an expensive and cumbersome quango to which the police ought not to supply criminal records".

Sir Eldon, who was Conservative Minister for Sport between 1970-74, said that he believes the Government is quite right to bring in further legislation but he does not like many of the details of the Bill.

He also tells the chairman of Ipswich Town that he does not agree that the Football League has done enough to tackle the problem of hooliganism, although he "recognizes and

applauds the steps that clubs like Ipswich have taken". However, the criticisms of Sir Eldon, who is uniquely experienced in the affairs of both sport and the police, is a severe rebuff to the Government, which is planning to introduce the Bill into the House of Lords in January.

Even after Moynihan last month addressed a joint meeting of the Conservative backbench sports and environment committees, it was clear that the Government faced a substantial rebellion over the Bill. Among the critics have been figures from both wings of the party, including Sir Rhodes Boyson and Robert Hicks.

The final details of the Bill have yet to be announced, but so concerned has Moynihan been to gain support for the most important piece of legislation ever directly to affect Britain's most popular sport that he circularized MPs before the Christmas recess with an explanation of why the scheme must be brought in during the 1989-90 season.

Tom Pendry, the Labour MP for Stalybridge and Hyde, also circularized MPs with his views why it should be opposed.



Gripping encounter: Bates, of Leicester, is tackled by Mesnel, of the Barbarians, in the match at Welford Road yesterday

## Campese leaves his trademark

By David Hands Rugby Correspondent

Leicester..... 19  
Barbarians..... 26

It took until the fourth minute of injury-time before the crowd of 17,160 at Leicester yesterday were able to enjoy the sight of David Campese crossing for a try in his Barbarian debut but when he did they greeted it with the rapture normally reserved for their own men.

It is an indication of the stature this great player has attained throughout the world. "Give the ball to the Australian," came an appeal midway through the second half, when he had exerted less than his normal influence upon this annual Christmas fixture, and as the crowd drifted away, well satisfied despite the defeat of Leicester by four goals and three tries to a goal, a try and three penalty goals, he was still signing autographs for his young admirers.

The reigning Courage Clubs champions are not the force they were; the eye for the half chance has gone, there is no longer a midfield presence to frighten opponents, certainly not those of yesterday's quality which included in Mesnel a player capable of wresting possession from forwards or backs and creating chances for his own side. Twice Leicester introduced Underwood from the blind side and twice he lost the ball to the Frenchman and the Barbarians scored from over 60 metres.

The Leicester scrum held up well enough but their lineout faded badly in the second half and, despite a strong game by Wells, it was Calder and Hodgson who caught the eye with some splendid support work. Another debutant to enjoy himself was Thresher, who never looks better than when he is coming forward; it was he who gave the Barbarians the best of starts by running a poor kick by Cusworth from his own line, supporting Calder, and then pursuing Lafond's kick as the ball squirmed away from

Cusworth at the other end of the field. Kardooni, who is growing in confidence, stretched over for a try which, with Hare's conversion, gave Leicester a 9-6 advantage. But by the interval they were trailing 16-9 and Evans was confirming what he already knew, that Campese's gifts in defence are almost as unlimited as those he possesses in attack.

One spectator chose to celebrate Christmas at half-time by climbing to a crossbar for a whisky, generously offering Campese a swallow though the Australian had no need of extra fire in his belly.

Lafond and Calder scored tries around Hare's second penalty but Leicester were by no means finished: Hare kicked another penalty, Cusworth's diagonal ball squirmed wickedly away from Underwood with the defence beaten and Evans finally struggled over in the corner to put his side within a score of their opponents.

From the restart, though, Griffiths placed a chip so perfectly that Campese and Douglas, the replacement, worked a try for Mesnel and then Campese came with his tour de force. The Barbarians' total may have been five points away from their season's average, but no one among the crowd was complaining.

SCORERS: Leicester: Tries: Kardooni, Evans, Connerman; Hare, Penalties: Hare. Barbarians: Tries: Mesnel, Thresher, Hall, Lafond, Calder, Campese. Conversion: Lafond (4). LEICESTER: W Hare, S Evans, P Dodge (captain), I Bates, R Underwood, I Cardwell, A Kardooni, S Pedden, C Thresher, W Richardson, J Wells, M Field, T Smith, I Smith (captain), M Grant. BARBARIANS: S Thresher (captain), S Hodgson (vice capt), N Radwin (captain) and England: P Adams (captain), S Hodgson (vice capt), N Radwin (captain) and England: F Calder (Stewart's Mobile) and Glasgow: M Tenge (Gloucester) and Wales: C High (Manchester).

Robson in new role. Bobby Robson, the England football manager, is turning reporter to present a television special on January 3. Robson will interview Franz Beckenbauer and Trevor Francis, among others, for the programme, to be shown on Channel 4 News.

Iran appeal. Nicosia (Reuters) - Iranians have been told to play more sport. The parliamentary speaker, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, told a meeting of Iran's leading sportsmen that more attention should be paid to sport "not only for a livelier and healthier nation, but to bring pride for Iran in the international scene".

Ring remedy. Mark Ring, the Cardiff and Wales rugby union centre, will undergo an operation on his injured right knee this morning.

Murder case. Chandigarh, India (AP) - The Indian Test cricketer, Navjot Singh Sidhu, is "yet to be apprehended" after being accused of "causing death by a rash and negligent act," police confirmed yesterday.

Midnight run. Sue Crehan, of Sale Harriers, a member of the British Olympic marathon team, and Nigel Adams, of Swansea Harriers, are favourites to win the New Galan 10,000 metres road race on New Year's Eve.

## Christie supports Johnson

Linford Christie expressed hope yesterday that Ben Johnson would be given a chance to resume his shattered athletics career. Britain's fastest sprinter said it would never be known if the Canadian, who was stripped of his Olympic 100 metres gold medal and world record for taking anabolic steroids, had been used as a "scapegoat" in Seoul.

Christie, who was himself at the centre of a drugs drama in Seoul before his name was cleared, added: "People murder people and they've come off with less. It would be nice to give him another chance."

Johnson, who is back in training in Toronto while he waits to learn whether he will be banned for good from the sport, is automatically suspended for two years under international rules. That could be extended to life by Canadian officials who are investigating his case.

Christie, who collected two silver medals in Seoul, insisted in a BBC radio sport interview: "We'll never know whether he was made a scapegoat." But Christie, who has never disguised his friendship with the Canadian, recommends mercy for Johnson, added: "Anyone caught after this should be banned for life - and I think life should be life."

## Toleman and Lee escape injury

Ted Toleman and Barry Lee narrowly avoided serious injury on the untimed leg of the Paris to Dakar rally between Tunis and Tozeur yesterday. A youth threw a brick at Toleman's car, breaking the windscreen and the navigator's window. Toleman, who was leaning forward to read his map at the time, was cut on his face, and Barry Lee suffered cuts to his face and hands. "Ted told me to stop," Lee said. "But we had to keep going."

Andrew Cowan, the Scottish rallying veteran, also suffered at the hands of spectators lining the 250-mile route. He said: "I have got chips on the front of my car, but nothing too serious." Ulrich Brehmner, the Mitsubishi team manager, said that the stone-throwing was an occupational hazard for competitors in the Paris to Dakar. "It's a game for the kids, but not for us."

Cowan's colleague, the former Formula One driver, Patrick Tambay, predicted that the first competitive stage to Libya on Thursday will put the ill-prepared entries to their first real test of the rally. "I was here on a recon-

naissance a month of two ago and it will be a nice stage for us, with a little bit of everything." Ari Vatanen is confident of repeating his success in the 1987 rally. He said: "It's too early for any real competitiveness yet, but we have been lucky so far after getting our 21-minute penalty back."

## Hired help for Bruno

Frank Bruno will employ two sparring partners before his February 25 bout with Mike Tyson for the world heavyweight championship in Las Vegas.

Bruno's manager, Terry Lawless, believes that Dwight Muhammad Qawi and Bert Cooper, both Americans, are the boxers whose styles best approximate the champion's.

"They are a close thing to Tyson, if you can ever get that close." Lawless said yesterday. Qawi is a former world light-heavyweight and cruiserweight champion while Cooper was set to assist Bruno in London before the contest was moved to the United States. Bruno and Lawless plan to leave for America next week.

## Robson in new role

Bobby Robson, the England football manager, is turning reporter to present a television special on January 3. Robson will interview Franz Beckenbauer and Trevor Francis, among others, for the programme, to be shown on Channel 4 News.

## Iran appeal

Nicosia (Reuters) - Iranians have been told to play more sport. The parliamentary speaker, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, told a meeting of Iran's leading sportsmen that more attention should be paid to sport "not only for a livelier and healthier nation, but to bring pride for Iran in the international scene".

## Ring remedy

Mark Ring, the Cardiff and Wales rugby union centre, will undergo an operation on his injured right knee this morning.

## Jacobs date

Gary Jacobs, from Glasgow, the WBC International welterweight champion, will defend against Jean-Claud Fontana, of France, in Paris in the Spring if he emerges unscathed from his February bout with Rocky Kelly.

## Murder case

Chandigarh, India (AP) - The Indian Test cricketer, Navjot Singh Sidhu, is "yet to be apprehended" after being accused of "causing death by a rash and negligent act," police confirmed yesterday.

## Midnight run

Sue Crehan, of Sale Harriers, a member of the British Olympic marathon team, and Nigel Adams, of Swansea Harriers, are favourites to win the New Galan 10,000 metres road race on New Year's Eve.

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